Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

ICO Issues Statement on 20th Anniversary *[Riyadh Radio]* 1
Mauritania, Senegal Seek ICO Action on Refugees *[BBC]* 1
ICO Hails Mandela Release as 'Positive Step' *[KUNA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Israel Said Planning Fake Terrorist Operation *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 11 Feb]* 2
PLO's Al-Surani Pledges Intifadah Continuation *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 9 Feb]* 2
Qalandiyah Airport Receives Soviet Jews *[WAKH]* 3
Further Commentary on Soviet Jews' Emigration 3
PLO Radio Attacks Bush Position *[Baghdad VOP]* 3
'Abd-Rabbuh on U.S., Soviet Stances *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 11 Feb]* 4
Fatah's Khalaf on Emigration *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Al-Husayni on Emigration *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 12 Feb]* 4
PLO Sends EC Message on Jewish Emigration *[Baghdad VOP]* 5
'Arafat Message *[KUNA]* 5
More on 'Arafat Message *[Rabat Radio]* 5
Abu-Sharif Accuses Israel of Rafah 'Massacres' *[Sanaa Voice of Palestine]* 5
PLO Official Describes 'Arafat-al-Shar' Talks *[Kuwait AL-ANBA 7 Feb]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Warns of Emigration's 'Grave Dangers' *[WAKH]* 7
Wafd Leader Decries Resettlement of Soviet Jews *[AL-WAFD 5 Feb]* 7
'Full Coordination' Between USSR, Israel Noted *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 7 Feb]* 7
Dailies Comment on Soviet Jewish Immigration *[MENA]* 7
AL-AHRAM Warns of Israel's 'Threat' to Jordan *[MENA]* 8
Editorials Comment on 4 Feb Bus Attack *[MENA]* 8
AL-AHRAM on PLO Statement *[MENA]* 9
AL-AHRAM on Peace Process *[MENA]* 9
AL-AHRAM on Egyptian Policy *[MENA]* 9
*Cairo Said To Seek Improved Relations With USSR *[Paris AL-FURSAN 20 Jan]* 10
Ghali Addresses African Liberation Committee *[MENA]* 10
Ghali Calls for Dialogue in Ethiopia *[MENA]* 10
UAE President Arrives for Visit 11 Feb *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Meets With Mubarak *[MENA]* 10
Mozambican Foreign Minister Arrives *[MENA]* 11
Senegalese Minister Arrives With Message *[MENA]* 11
Mauritanian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 11
Concludes Visit *[MENA]* 11
Mubarak Presents Proposals on Senegal-Mauritania *[MENA]* 11
Bahraini Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 12
Meets With Mubarak *[MENA]* 12
Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi Telephone Conversation Noted *[MENA]* 12
Official Leaves for Chad With Mubarak Message *[MENA]* 12

Islamic Group Opts for Dialogue With Government *[AL-WAFD 20 Jan]* 12
Islamic Development Bank To Finance Project *[MENA]* 12
World Bank Loan To Renovate Irrigation Stations *[AL-WAFD 3 Feb]* 13
'Free Market' Trade With East Europe Planned *[MENA]* 13
Economy Minister Outlines Anti-Recession Measures *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Health Minister Reports 27 AIDS Cases *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 1 Feb]* 13

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Nasir University Students *[Tripoli TV]* 13

Sudan

SPLA Claims Government Transport Plane Downed *[Radio SPLA]* 16
SPLA's Garang on War Situation, Uganda Help *[BBC]* 17
SPLA Reports Government Soldiers Executed *[Radio SPLA]* 17
SPLA Statement on Mistakenly Abducted Doctors *[Radio SPLA]* 18

IRAQ

Saddam, 'Arafat Review Palestinian Developments *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Tariq 'Aziz, 'Arafat Confer *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Envoy Meets With UN Official on Peace Process *[INA]* 19
Oil Minister Says Al-Bakr Port 'Completed' *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Oil Ministry Source Cited on New Projects *[INA]* 19
Saddam Husayn Urges Close Contacts With People *[INA]* 20
Saddam, Kelly Discuss Relations, Regional Issues *[INA]* 21
Ramadan Leads Official Delegation to Sanaa 21
To Attend Joint Meetings *[INA]* 21
Returns From Sanaa 11 Feb *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Paper Urges 'Firm' Stance Against Jewish Influx *[INA]* 21
Turkish Envoy Comments on Talks, Departs *[INA]* 21
UNIIMOG Commander Jovic Leaves for Tehran *[INA]* 22

ISRAEL

PLO 'To Retreat' on E. Jerusalem Delegates *[MA'ARIV 14 Feb]* 23
Shamir 'Prepared' To Include Deportees in Talks *[HADASHOT 14 Feb]* 23
Knesset Defeats 10 No-Confidence Motions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Baker Invitation To Mean Inner Cabinet Session *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
No Likud Faction Support for Sharon, Cabinet *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Shamir Victor in Poll of Likud Central Committee *[HADASHOT 14 Feb]* 24
Shamir Cancels 14 Feb Likud Ministers Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Likud Groups Plan 'Independent Bloc' in Faction *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
Paper on Likud Meeting Impact on Peace Process *[AL-NAHAR 13 Feb]* 25
Shamir Not Asking Sharon To Stay in Cabinet *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Attorney General: Sharon's Resignation Not Legal *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
AL-QUDS on U.S.-USSR 'Secret' Mideast Deal *[11 Feb]* 26
Peretz: Emigrants Need Help Wherever They Head *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
CSSR Official Supports Czech Transit Station *[MA'ARIV 13 Feb]* 27
150,000 Aliyah Invitations Sent Monthly to Jews *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Soviet Jews Said Serving in Occupied Territories *[Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 31 Jan]* 28
Shamir: No Territorial Policy on Immigration *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Ya'aqobi Notes Mutual Benefit in VOA Station *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Peres Aide Appointed to U.S. Embassy Post *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Feb]* 29
Diplomatic Ties With Poland To Be Renewed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Feb]* 29
7 Golan Druze Arrested for Planning Kidnapping *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Update on Casualties in Territories 13 February *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Feb]* 29

JORDAN

Columnist Sees Mosad Involvement in Bus Attack *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 14 Feb]* 31
Hasan Voices Worry Over Soviet Jewish Influx *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Feb]* 31
Japanese Official Arrives on Three-Day Visit 32
Comments on Immigration *[Amman Radio]* 32
Meets With King Husayn *[Amman Radio]* 32
Meets With Al-Qasim *[Amman Radio]* 32
Badran, Information Minister on Jewish Emigration *[PETRA-JNA]* 33
Paper Mulls Israeli 'Infiltration' of E. Europe *[AL-DUSTUR 10 Feb]* 33
Israeli Threat Requires Arab Responsibility *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 14 Feb]* 34
Cultural, Scientific Accord Signed With Cyprus *[Amman TV]* 34

LEBANON

Clashes Reported Along East Beirut Lines *[VOL]* 35
Four Israeli Soldiers Killed 13 Feb *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 35
DFLP Attacks Israeli Patrol 14 Feb *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Kasrawan Front Positions Reinforced *[VOM]* 35
PSP Reportedly Reinforces Military Positions *[RFL]* 35
'Awn Calls on Reservists To Join Barracks *[VOM]* 35
Plans Deployment *[VOL]* 35
'Awn Vows To Prevent Creation of 'Gestapo State' *[VOM]* 35
Warns of Offensive *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36
Al-Hirawi Notes Army's Ability To End 'Rebellion' *[VOM]* 36
Defense Minister: Army Ready To End 'Tragedy' *[Beirut Radio]* 36
'Awn Media Report Insubordination in LF *[Voice of National Resistance]* 36
AL-SAFIR Notes Al-Yarzah-Lahhud Contacts *[VOL]* 36
Sarba Barracks Join Army Neutral Command *[RFL]* 37
Neutral Forces Supports 'Legitimate Government' *[VOM]* 37
Gunmen Assassinate Nasirite Officer in Sidon *[VOL]* 37
Lebanese Forces Set Up 'Operations Room' *[VOL]* 37
Lebanese Forces Reportedly Kidnap Businessman *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Al-Husayni Seeks Arab Summit To Resolve Conflict *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Envoy on Nonintervention, French Nationals *[VOL]* 38
'Awn Rejects French Proposal on Observer Team *[RFL]* 38
France's Kouchner Departs, Promises Medical Aid *[Beirut Radio]* 38
LF Criticize Kouchner *[RFL]* 38
Papal Nuncio, French Envoy Charged With Conspiracy *[VOM]* 38
Algerian Minister: Syrian Intervention Possible *[Beirut Radio]* 38

SYRIA

Palestine Broadcast Condemns Israeli 'Crimes' *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Damascus Radio Urges Arabs To Use 'Potential' *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Communist Party Leaders Comment in Interviews 40
Faction Head on Perestroyka *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 11 Feb]* 40
Secretary General on Reforms *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 9 Feb]* 40
Correction to Emigration Called 'Crime' 41

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Soviet Muslims Urged To 'Reach for Freedom' *[AFP]* 42
National Assembly Seeks Help To End War *[BAKHTAR]* 42
'Painful Punishment' Due for Kabul Regime *[London AL-HAWADITH 9 Feb]* 43

India

Spokesman Defends Action of Security Forces *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Demonstrations Held at Pakistani High Commission *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Political Parties Rally in Punjab Against Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Kashmir Television Station Director Shot Dead *[Delhi Radio]* 44
21 Die in Punjab Violence; Rail Track Blown Up *[Delhi TV]* 44
3 Border Security Officers Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 45

Iran

TEHRAN TIMES Cautions Soviets on Tajikistan *[AFP]* 45
Talks Held With USSR on Cross-Border Traffic *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Karrubi: Rushdie Death Edict To Be Carried Out *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Lebanese Ulema Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Confers With Velayati *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Karrubi 12 Feb Speech on Islamic Awareness *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Khomeyni Speaks at IRC Anniversary Ceremony *[Tehran TV]* 47
Expelled Iranians Interviewed on Return From UK *[Tehran TV]* 47
Larijani Sees Good Relations With Europe, Not UK *[IRNA]* 47
Envoy to France Condemns Terrorism *[IRNA]* 48
Karrubi, Lebanese Tawhid Leader View Muslim Unity *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Envoy Meets With Afghan Mujahidin Leaders *[IRNA]* 49
Khamene'i Agrees to Partial Amnesty *[Tehran TV]* 49
Tehran Cites Report on Executions in Iraq *[Tehran International]* 50
Foreign Ministry Welcomes Mandela Release *[IRNA]* 50
Damaged Destroyer Relaunched in Bandar 'Abbas *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Aqazadeh Comments on Refinery's Importance *[Tehran TV]* 50

Nepal

Government Takes Measures Against Planned Rally 51
Home Minister Warns 'Activists' *[AFP]* 51
350 Multiparty Campaigners Held *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Police at Nepali Congress Office *[AFP]* 51
Shrestha Defends Panchayat System *[AFP]* 52
Nepali Congress Says 600 Held *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Communist Leaders Arrested *[AFP]* 52
Shops Close in Protest *[AFP]* 53
Journalists To Halt Publications in Protest *[Delhi Radio]* 53

Pakistan

Views and Action on Kashmir Issue 53
Conference Adopts Resolutions *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Border Shooting Sparks Protests *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Bhutto Welcomes Mediation *[AFP]* 54
Islamabad Radio Cites Interview 55
Opposition Urged Not To Observe 16 Feb Strike *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Bhutto Warns Against 'Provocateurs' in Sind *[AFP]* 55
Bhutto: Friends Will Not Betray Afghan Mujahidin *[AFP]* 56
Kabul Allegations of Airspace Violations Rejected *[THE MUSLIM 14 Feb]* 57
Bhutto Addresses Senate, Urges Cooperation *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Punjab Assembly Urges End to Confrontation *[Islamabad Radio]* 57

Sri Lanka

President Willing To Relax Emergency Regulations *[AFP]* 57
Wijeratne: India Trying To Destabilize Colombo *[AFP]* 58

Islamic Affairs

ICO Issues Statement on 20th Anniversary

LD0802102290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Representatives of Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] member-states expressed their full satisfaction over the achievements of the organization during the past 20 years. They also renewed their determination to continue their firm action within the framework of their countries' commitment to Islam's noble principles and the goals of the ICO charter.

In a statement issued on the occasion of festivities marking the ICO 20th anniversary, the participants emphasized that Muslims should remain committed to the virtues and principles of Islam.

On this occasion, the ICO highly saluted the Palestinian people and their heroic steadfastness in the face of the forces of colonialism, and particularly its blessed intifadah. The ICO expressed its denunciation and condemnation to all racist and oppressive practices directed against Muslim groups in parts of the world.

The statement noted that delegates of the ICO member-states welcomed with satisfaction the positive changes witnessed in the international arena, and particularly relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. In this connection, the statement asserted that these developments, which represent a new phase on the path of peace, stability, and prosperity, is likely to reduce the threat of armament and wars, and the various disasters that may follow in all fields.

Mauritania, Senegal Seek ICO Action on Refugees

AB0802071490 London BBC World Service in English 1830 GMT 7 Feb

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The row between Mauritania and Senegal is not over yet. Far from it. It began early last year with intercommunal violence that led to a two-way flow of refugees, black and Arabs, between the two countries. Now, Mauritania is claiming that Senegal is deliberately stopping Mauritanian refugees from returning home, and has appealed for help from the international Islamic community. From Nouakchott, Chei Bakhai telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] The Mauritanian Government has called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference [ICO] today to use all of their efforts to free large numbers of Mauritanians held in Senegal since last April. A communique issued in Nouakchott by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Islamic Conference could not remain silent on this issue.

The communique alleges that these Mauritanians are being terrorized and tortured in what it called Senegalese concentration camps. The communique criticized the Senegalese Government, and observers in Nouakchott say that the objective of the communique is mainly to deny the information recently circulated about a moderation in Mauritania's position toward this conflict with Senegal. This moderation is said to have occurred after a cabinet reshuffle which led to the dismissal of the minister of interior, Djbril Ould Abdellahi. The dismissal of General Djibril was unexpected, considering his close relations with the Mauritanian head of state, President Maaouiya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya. This feud with Senegal is the most serious crisis Mauritania has faced since independence in 1960, and President Ould Taya and Gen Djibril have found themselves facing mounting black Mauritanian opposition. [end recording]

ICO Hails Mandela Release as 'Positive Step'

LD1302100490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0746 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Jeddah, Feb 13 (KUNA)—The Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] has expressed its relief and satisfaction regarding the release of the South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

"Nelson Mandela a noble son of Africa and a great exponent of freedom has dedicated his life to the upholding of the values which all freedom loving and civilized people of the world cherish," the OIC Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid said in a statement last night.

Algabid said that the organization "salutes his indomitable spirit, admires his courage and determination and welcomes his return to his family and people".

The statement said that the OIC is observing closely development of the political situation in South Africa.

"It is evident that the winds of freedom and democracy sweeping through the world have, in South Africa gained renewed momentum by the heroic and determined struggle of our brothers and sisters against racial discrimination and apartheid".

The statement added that President F.W. de Klerk's effort to eliminate the sanction on the liberation movements and to free Mandela has to be hailed and encouraged as a positive step.

The statement however added that the real intentions of De Klerk have to be tested through the lifting of the state of emergency, the release of all political prisoners and the elimination the policy of apartheid.

"At this stage the Islamic world renews its pledge of solidarity and support to the just struggle of the people of South Africa to create a multiracial democratic society and a political and social order based on egalitarian principles".

In conclusion, Algabid said that the OIC is convinced that the hour of conquest against the "dark forces" of racism and apartheid is close.

The OIC also "call on the international community to continue to extend its full support to the people of South Africa in order to overcome the strong opposition being (?driven) by the racist circles in the Pretorian regime to the total elimination of the apartheid system."

Palestinian Affairs

Israel Said Planning Fake Terrorist Operation

JN1302152190 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Palestinian security organs have obtained serious information that elements collaborating with the internal Israeli Intelligence Service, known as Shin Bet, are planning to fabricate a terrorist operation. They will hijack an Israeli El Al airliner with the aim of aborting the Middle East peace process and giving the Likud block an excuse to disavow any commitment to the peace efforts and abort the Palestinian-Israeli meeting, scheduled to be held in Cairo in March.

Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo, told AL-ITTIHAD that the U.S. Administration has actually received similar reports and that the PLO has informed several Arab and European states of the information it has in this regard.

PLO's Al-Surani Pledges Intifadah Continuation

PM1402111890 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 9 Feb 90 p 18

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani by Fathi Salih and Mansur 'Atiyah in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] It is clear that Israel's procrastination with regard to the initiation of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue reflects the fact that the Israelis are not serious about achieving a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue. In fact Israel is doing its utmost to perpetuate its occupation of the Arab territories by opening the door to Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied territories in the hope of confronting the Palestinian intifadah, which is escalating every day.

With regard to ways of supporting the Palestinian intifadah in order to enable it to continue its resistance against the Zionist occupation forces, PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani told 'UKAZ: First of all, it must be emphasized that the Palestinian intifadah is a living expression of the Palestinian people's existence—a political existence accepted by the world as a whole. If anyone believes that the intifadah will stop after a while, then they are deluding themselves. This, because the intifadah will continue, one wave after another, and it will not stop until its objective has been achieved. This includes the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their own independent state under the leadership of the PLO—the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. Thus, we say that we are seeking to endorse international law on the basis of UN resolutions. But most regrettably, it is the United States and Israel which are standing against international law now.

So we will continue our moves at the international and Arab levels to prompt the United States to adhere to international law. As a superpower, it has an international responsibility to work to achieve and establish peace and security in the world.

One thing is certain: The Palestinian intifadah will not stop, as we said, because it started with the intention of continuing until all its objectives have been achieved.

The efforts being made to establish peace proceed from the fact that the entire world is moving toward peace, since many regional problems have been resolved. So it is essential to work to find a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue in light of the efforts being made in the region.

On Israel's constant rejection of peace proposals, Al-Surani said: Shamir's insistance on rejecting all peace initiatives will plunge the region into a chasm and emphasizes Israel's aggression and expansionist ambitions for the sake of settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

This is why the PLO—which is committed to a peace strategy and is working earnestly to achieve it—holds Shamir and the Israelis responsible for the explosive situation through their rejection of peace. We would like to stress that the PLO has fixed principles which it cannot abandon in the peace process: The PLO must appoint its delegation and there is no alternative to the PLO in the negotiation process. Repeated attempts have been made to find an alternative, but to no avail. We challenge anyone to agree to speak on the PLO's behalf in the peace process without the PLO's authorization. Everyone must realize that the Palestinian people are entitled to establish their own state and to determine their own future through a United Nations-sponsored international conference attended by the five major states and the parties concerned, including the PLO. Jamal al-Surani stressed that the PLO continues to push peace efforts forward, despite reports of the postponement of the Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. tripartite meeting and despite possible obstacles to the efforts to convene a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo.

Al-Surani also told 'UKAZ that it must be clear—we repeat—that the United States accepts the international conference as an idea, but does not accept the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as a preparatory step to be followed immediately by the international conference.

We would like to emphasize that we will not stop the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and will not backtrack from

boosting efforts with a view to holding the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, as long as it constitutes a step toward stability in the region. This, because our strategy is peace, and we will not alter this strategic stance, no matter what the pressure.

Al-Surani said that the Soviet Jews' emigration issue must be confronted, especially as it represents an imminent danger to peace. The emigration process is designed to settle them in the occupied territories, which is unacceptable. A PLO delegation will go to Moscow to discuss the issue and urge Soviet officials to adopt a stance designed to avert that danger.

Qalandiyah Airport Receives Soviet Jews

JN1402102490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Feb (WAKH)—News reports here today said that during the past few days, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has received several reports from the occupied territories indicating that the Israeli Government is using Qalandiyah Airport near Jerusalem to receive Soviet Jewish immigrants, and that several planes landed secretly at this airport during the past two weeks after the occupation authorities declared a state of emergency in the areas of Ramallah, al-Birah, and Bayt Hanina, and considered them a closed military zone.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD quoted informed Palestinian sources as saying that reports received by the Palestinian president also reveal that a large number of Jews were moved to settle in the Newe Ya'aqov settlement on the Ramallah-Jerusalem road and the Qiryat Arba' settlement near Hebron.

The sources pointed out that since last January, the occupation authorities have been carrying out huge preparations to turn Qiryat Arba' into a Jewish city overlooking Hebron and to settle more Soviet Jews in it.

Further Commentary on Soviet Jews' Emigration

PLO Radio Attacks Bush Position

JN0902211490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1944 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Commentary by radio political editor]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush believes that Moscow may be useful in facilitating the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel through direct flights to that country, according to his statement yesterday. Mr. Bush also believes that Moscow can play a supporting role in helping to achieve peace in the Middle East when it normalizes it relations with Israel.

This is how Mr. Bush determines the importance of the different states, including the big ones. This is how he decides whether this or that country is useful, or useless, according to the nature of its relations with Israel. Specifically, Moscow will be useful only if it facilitates the emigration of Soviet Jews through direct flights to occupied Palestine. Otherwise, Moscow is useless. According to Washington, the Soviet Union has no leading role in the peace process in the Middle East, but only a supporting role on the condition that it normalizes its relations with Israel.

Without any doubt, this logic is insulting to the Soviet Union. However, it is not our business to defend the Soviet Union or its sovereignty. The policy of international detente may even compel Moscow to remain silent over this insult.

Anyhow, we will understand if U.S. President Bush urges Moscow to strengthen its relations with his country for the benefit of international detente. We will also understand if he urges it to allow the Soviet Jewish emigrants to leave the Soviet Union so that Mr. Bush can receive them in his country, because he can do what pleases him there. But, what we do not understand, and could never understand, is the invitation he extends to them to a country which he does not own in order to settle there and take, or even usurp, its people's share of land, water, and air that belongs to them alone.

Yes, we could never understand that. This means that we will vehemently resist that aggressive, expansionist, and foolish logic.

Apparently, U.S. President George Bush, who only sees through Israeli eyes, wants to repeat Balfour's role in history. He does so because he cannot see in the Arab region a unity of ranks and position to confront his unjust, aggressive logic—a unity that defends the nation's future and causes and practically supports its sons who resist the threat of Zionist expansionism and aggression.

Yes, Balfour made his ill-omened declaration when the Arab nation did not have that strong united presence, and when the Arab states were colonized and their entities lacked clear sovereignty and effectiveness. Is this what Mr. Bush sees now in the Arab nation? No, this is not the image of the Arab nation in this age. This nation now has organized, active forces struggling and standing fast. They are progressive and victorious forces, and they are all required to respond to the logic of U.S. aggression—the opportunist and unethical logic which only sees Israel in the Middle East and defends and adopts all of its causes and supports even its savage crimes against our unarmed people.

Our nation will certainly have a say. Through the position of its free men, our nation will have a decisive and categorical word—a word that puts things in order, including rebel aggression and its threats if not today, tomorrow; and tomorrow is never far off for those who look forward to it.

'Abd-Rabbuh on U.S., Soviet Stances

JN1202174290 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Feb 90 p 29

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—The PLO has expressed deep dissatisfaction with the new, hostile U.S. attitude toward the Palestinian people's aspirations. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Information Department, described U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's refusal to sign a joint Soviet-U.S. declaration denouncing the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Palestinian territories as a continuation of the U.S. Administraton's encouragement and backing of the settlement policy in the occupied territories. He said this U.S. attitude conforms with U.S. policy, which aims at peddling enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan on elections in order to consolidate the Israeli occupation.

'Abd-Rabbuh expressed the PLO's appreciation of the Soviet policy which he described as balanced. He voiced his belief that the Jewish emigration is taking place with the approval of the Kremlin which, he said, is concerned that such emigration does not produce any adverse repercussions on the process of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

'Abd-Rabbuh called on the Arab states to launch a comprehensive campaign against the Soviet Jews' emigration and hold an Arab summit in order to discuss the dimensions and dangers of this emigration.

Fatah's Khalaf on Emigration

LD1002202590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Salah Khalaf, Abu-Iyad, member of the FATAH Central Committee and a Palestinian figurehead, talks to our colleague Mohamed Guitani from Tunis on the new Jewish influx and the Arab effort to confront it. He answered at the beginning a question on the reprecussion of the Soviet Jewish immigration on the peace process in the Middle East:

[Begin recording] [Khalaf] Look at the Israeli prime minister's pronouncements that he will use this immigration to create a greater Israel; this means that there wil be no withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories and that there will be no talks about the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. This means, furthermore, that there will be no peace in the region as long as Shamir plans to use this huge Jewish immigration to create a greater Israel, which no longer constitutes a danger only the the Palestinians, but a danger to the Arab nation as a whole. The number of Jewish immigrants could be anywhere between 600,000 to one million persons in the next five years; that it, the same number as when the Jewish state was established—Israel's population in 1948 was 650,000. Thus the number coming to the region will be far greater than the original number of people who created Israel. Here lies the danger. This is the danger which the Arab nation should understand and confront.

[Guitani] Brother Abu-Iyad, there are efforts underway to convene an emergency Arab summit conference to examine this immigration. Is it possible to tell us more about such an effort?

[Khalaf] I think a summit conference is a long way off yet. Some enthusiasm for convening it was evident some two or three weeks ago. It seems, however, that such enthusiasm has now subsided. In my opinion, such a summit is needed now by the Arab nation in order to examine the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine or the current events in Lebanon, as well as the latest international developments and the impass imposed upon us by the Israel Government. All these matters require a higher level summit at which Arab leaders would examine their future existence, because this greater Israel, which Shamir and his gang are thinking of, not only includes Palestine and constitutes a threat to it—such a threat to Palestine already exists—but a threat to the Arab nation as a whole. Thus, convening an Arab summit conference as soon as possible is a must.

[Guitani] A number of East European countries have restored their relations with Israel. What is the PLO's stance toward such new developments?

[Khalaf] I believe we should first take into our consideration those new developments and deal with them. Israel is trying to exploit the new situation in order to torpedo our relations as Arabs and Palestinians with those countries. I think we should, notwithstanding our regrets about such a shift toward Israel, not look at it as a final stance; we must talk to them, particularly with the new apparatuses there, in order to safeguard, at least, our gains with those countries and not to lose those gains, given Israeli and Zionist intrigues. [end recording]

This was Mr. Abu-Iyad; he was talking to us from Tunis.

Al-Husayni on Emigration

JN1302185090 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 12 Feb 90 p 14

[Report from Jerusalem on remarks by Faysal al-Husayni, director of the East Jerusalem Institute of Arab Studies, in reply to set questions posed by AL-WATAN on the issues of Jewish emigration, Shamir's alternative homeland plan, and emigration of Palestinians from West Bank and Gaza—date not given]

[Text] The emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union has undoubtedly boosted Likud's position and attitude toward the annexation [of the occupied territories]. This is especially true since the alignment has been in favor of withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza for demographic reasons. Shamir wanted the land, even if he risked a demographic imbalance. The alignment, on the

other hand, wanted to maintain this balance, even if at the expense of land. From the Likud's perspective, the emigration secures both the land and the demographic balance. Through these attempts, the Likud is no doubt also pressuring us to accept less than a state. It is therefore very important to apply all sorts of pressure to prevent any new settlement in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, and to open the doors of the United States and Europe to emigrants. If we fail in this, we are bound to face a great and serious problem in light of the balance of the world's new political equation.

The idea of an alternative homeland, undoubtedly, is definitely on Shamir's mind. He has the ambition of pushing more Palestinians into Jordan to portray Jordan as the country of the Palestinians. The emigration also consolidates this idea.

We have to support the intifadah materially and morally, and employ all our resources to attain a political solution. This can only be achieved through a unified Arab position. Otherwise, we may witness at the beginning of the coming century a new catastrophe and new changes, with Jordan being the target.

Concerning the emigration of Palestinians to the East Bank, they [not further identified] consider anyone who leaves for one year as emigrant; that is, anyone absent for 366 days is, statistically, considered an emigrant. But, as we know, the Israeli authorities give renewable three-year travel permissions. Consequently, all people abroad are entitled to return. This, then, is an economic rather than a political or national emigration. These people are counted in the official census. The problem is less serious than you imagine it to be, but we must not ignore it, and we must create new opportunities for productive work to maintain Palestinian presence in the occupied territories.

PLO Sends EC Message on Jewish Emigration

JN1002211790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] The PLO has sent an official memo to the EC member states regarding the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Brother Abu-Ja'far ['Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah], director general of the PLO Political Department, handed the memo to Claudio Lamorino, Italy's ambassador to Tunisia, during their meeting yesterday. They also discussed the EC member states' role in the Middle East peace process and stressed the need for them to participate in any international activity concerning that process.

'Arafat Message

LD1302134390 Kuwait KUNA in English 0946 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, Feb 13 (KUNA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has expressed the PLO's appreciation of the stance of the European Economic Community (EEC) towards the Palestinian issue.

In a message sent to the heads of the EEC countries, 'Arafat stressed the importance of continued EC-support which is hoped to help stop the on-going oppression of the Palestinian people by Israeli occupation authorities.

'Arafat pointed out in his message the significance of the participation of the EEC countries in international responsibilities toward achieving fair peace and in aiding the Palestinian people to gain their national rights including self-determination.

The message was conveyed by PLO representative in Tunis, Hakam Bal'awi to the Italian ambassador and acting representative of the EEC countries in Tunis, Claudio Lamorino in a meeting held Monday night.

More on 'Arafat Message

LD1302212790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] In the face of the fierce attack by the Israeli occupation authorities and the escalation of the oppression of the Palestinian citizens in Rafah and Khan Yunis in the occupied territories, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, sent today a message to the heads of governments of the EEC countries, in which he appealed to them to intervene immediately to put an end to the Zionist massacres in the occupied Arab territories.

Palestinian press sources confirmed today that member of the Fatah Executive Committee and PLO representative in Tunis Mr. Hakam Bal'awi handed the message to the Italian ambassador to Tunisia. The same sources said that, in his message, the Palestinian leader expressed his appreciation of the EEC countries because of their stance towards the Palestinian issue. At the same time, he pointed to the necessity of the 12 countries' participation in the internatonal efforts toward establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

It has also been learned that Bal'awi and the Italian ambassador to Tunisia held a number of talks which concentrated on the latest developments in the occupied Arab territories and the issue of settling the Soviet Jews there.

It is known that the EEC announced last week its intention to impose economic sanctions on Israel because of the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories and the Israeli reluctance in responding to the peace process in the region.

Abu-Sharif Accuses Israel of Rafah 'Massacres'

JN1202181690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, information adviser to the president of the state of Palestine, has accused the Zionist entity's authorities of planning to militarily

storm Nasir Hospital in the city of Khan Yunus, where scores of people who were wounded by the Zionist soldiers are being treated.

In a news statement today, brother Bassan Abu-Sharif said that the massacres, which the occupation forces began to carry out in the city of Rafah five days ago, are still continuing. He added that many citizens were either martyred or wounded.

Brother Abu-Sharif also urged the humanitarian and international organizations to carry out their humanitarian duty to put an end to storming hospitals by the occupation forces and also called on the UN Security Council to shoulder its political and humanitarian responsibilities, stressing that the Palestinians' patience is limited, and that the masses in the occupied Gaza Strip will continue to escalate their resistance to enemy troops, who are losing their nerves and acting rashly toward the people's heroism.

PLO Official Describes 'Arafat-al-Shar' Talks

JN0902162690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
7 Feb 90 pp 1, 30

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Tunis—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat yesterday received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who headed his country's delegation to the meeting of the Arab ministerial committee, tasked with supporting the intifadah, which was held in the Tunisian capital the night before last. The committee decided to send delegations to Moscow, Washington, and Europe to discuss the issue of Soviet Jewish immigrants and attempt to obtain guarantees that they will not be settled in the West Bank and Gaza.

The importance of this meeting—the second of its kind between 'Arafat and al-Shar' in less than 10 hours—stems from the nature of the subjects raised.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who was a member of the Palestinian side in the meeting, explained that the idea of convening a 4-party meeting comprising including Egypt and Jordan, in addition to the PLO and Syria, since those are the states concerned with convening the international conference, according to the resolutions issued by the recent Casablanca Arab summit conference.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the two parties agreed to coordinate in the political field in the future, particularly over the issue of convening the international conference.

Asked about what was agreed on in the way of normalizing Palestinian-Syrian relations, the PLO Executive Committee member said that this subject was discussed in depth, and that it was agreed to continue the discussion. He added that it was also agreed to continue such meetings before the Arab summit conference scheduled in March. He said the meeting was cordial.

Well-informed Palestinian sources said that president 'Arafat raised the issue of Palestinian prisoners held in Syrian jails and the need to release them as soon as possible in a Syrian gesture of goodwill. The Syrian minister promised to channel this subject to the higher authorities in his country.

The Palestinian sources said that 'Arafat-al-Shar' first meeting, which went on until 0330 yesterday, Tuesday, centered on the political line that has to be adopted. Al-Shar' asked the PLO to return to a more rigid policy. However, the Palestinian delegation explained to him that this is impossible in view of the current circumstances of the Arab countries.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Warns of Emigration's 'Grave Dangers'

JN0902105490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Doha, 9 Feb (WAKH)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has warned of the grave dangers resulting from the Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel. In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY today, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt believes the immigration is very serious and we cannot remain silent on it, particularly since it escalates and further complicates tension in the region; it also obstructs efforts to find a solution to the regional conflict. He called for Arab and Islamic countries to close ranks and adopt a unified and appropriate stand on the emigration issue. He noted that contacts were underway for this purpose in the Arab and Islamic arenas.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid denied knowledge of an extraordinary Arab summit. He said his country has no information on this issue.

On the date of the tripartite meeting among Egypt, the United States, and Israel, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: The meeting was scheduled to be held in Geneva on Sunday [11 February]. No final agreement was reached on the date because more contacts and consultations are needed.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid expressed regret over the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon; he called on all warring parties to abide by the al-Ta'if agreement and to allow the legitimate Lebanese Government to control the country.

When asked about recent reports on the imminent transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that moving the Arab League headquarters is within the provisions of the Arab League Charter, of which Article 10 stipulates that Cairo is the permanent headquarters of the Arab League. He added that the decision to move the Arab League headquarters to Tunis was temporary. He said that the majority of the Arab countries believe this and there is an understanding between Egypt and Tunisia on the matter.

Wafd Leader Decries Resettlement of Soviet Jews

JN0802143690 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, leader of the Wafd Party, has urged the Arab countries to confront the major catastrophe of placing Soviet Jews in new settlements to be established in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Siraj-al-Din described the emigration as the crime of the century. In a statement to AL-WAFD, he urged the Arab governments to hold a conference to lay a strategy to confront this Zionist plan, which is designed to realize Israel's dream of Greater Israel through the current international changes and their impact on the Arab nation.

'Full Coordination' Between USSR, Israel Noted

JN0902130490 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Excerpts] Why do we try to deceive ourselves by imagining that the Soviet Union was a friend who betrayed friendship, or that we provoked it by attacking and exposing it? All that has been said by the anticommunists in Egypt does not amount to one-quarter of what Gorbachev has said about communism, nor 10 percent of what papers in the communist countries said.

Why do we try to deceive ourselves and pretend to be unaware of the fact that the Soviet Union and Israel have been acting with full coordination since 1947 and even earlier. We pretend to be unaware of the fact that communism and Zionism are two faces of the same coin, that most members of the CPSU Politburo were Jews, and that Karl Marx himself was a Jew. We also pretend to be unaware of the fact that the Soviet Union was the major arms supplier to the Israeli gangs in Palestine, that the early immigrants to Israel were from communist countries, and that the leaders of Israel, so far, have been descendants of East European Jews. We have not heard of a Jew born in the United States or France that emigrated to Israel to become one of its leaders. Indeed, the Jewish influx from the communist states to Israel began before the existence of Israel. [passage omitted]

This does not clear the United States of blame. It is enough that it increases aid to Israel and is diverting the wave of Jewish emigrants to Israel. However, the United States says this aid should not be used in financing Jewish settlement in the occupied territory. Aid to Israel and lip service to us!

These plots against Egypt and the Arabs can only be halted when we Arabs reach a unified position acceptable to the world and compatible with our interests, without raising cries of friendship or betrayal with nations who care for nothing but their own interests.

Dailies Comment on Soviet Jewish Immigration

NC0802135090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0644 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—In their editorials today, AL-AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM discuss a despicable conspiracy in which the big powers are taking part to usurp the last part of Palestinian territory and to move its people so that hundreds of thousands of Jewish

immigrants can be settled. The Soviet Union opened its doors widely so these immigrants could embark on this barbaric invasion, which is unprecedented in modern history.

Under the headline "The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and the Anticipated Barbaric Invasion," AL-AKHBAR calls on the ICO to use its 20th anniversary as a starting point for an international campaign, on the largest scale possible, to head of the catastrophe of usurping the last part of Palestine. The paper notes that the ICO includes 45 member-states with millions of Muslims. If the ICO orchestrates its efforts, pools its resources, and exercises pressure internationally, it can play an effective political and economic role in safeguarding Islamic areas that face dangers and threats like those to which the Palestinians in the occupied land are being subjected.

AL-AHRAM asserts that Egypt categorically and unequivocally rejects the settlement of Soviet immigrants in the occupied Arab territory because this poses extremely serious threats to the peace process and to security and stability in the Middle East, which is affected by all aspects of Arab and Egyptian security.

AL-AHRAM notes that Egyptian [officials] summoned the ambassadors of the countries concerned and gave them messages for the leaders of their countries from President Mubarak. These messages placed the responsibility on the parties concerned for the serious consequences from settling Soviet immigrants in the occupied territory. This signifies flagrant aggression against all international norms and charters.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM wonders if there are practical, urgent, and even secret decisions to confront this serious, historic situation with short- and long-term plans, alternatives, and calculated and distributed responsibilities. It also wonders if there are swift, courageous, and studied initiatives to stop the advance [zahf] before it starts or to prevent it from continuing. It also questions whether or not there are precise strategies to confront all parties and aspects of this [word indistinct].

AL-AHRAM Warns of Israel's 'Threat' to Jordan

NC1302073690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—In today's edition AL-AHRAM asserts that Israel is on the verge of embarking on a dangerous ploy against Jordan, which it views as the alternative homeland for Palestinians; and this ploy will determine the time, venue, and dimensions for use of armed force.

The editorial says that Israel's threat to strike at the water resources and basic industries in Jordan on the pretext of repeated infiltrations at the Jordanian borders is a premeditated attempt to terrorize Jordan so that it will not "act" if the wave of Jewish emigration to Israel and [of Palestinians] from the West Bank to Jordan increases. It adds that the new wave of increased immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to Israel will probably lead to an increase in the deportation of Palestinians to Jordan and this would necessarily lead to counteractions in the form of "infiltrations" from Jordan into Israel.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM calls on the Arab world to rush to Jordan's aid so that it will not have to stand alone against these grave and aggressive provocations and notes here King Husayn's call for holding a non-traditional Arab summit to confront the crisis of Israeli immigrations and its dangers.

Editorials Comment on 4 Feb Bus Attack

NC0702085090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Under the headline "What Did They Want From Their Grotesque Crime?" AL-AKHBAR asks: Has this crime contributed to supporting the Palestinian issue? Has it bolstered the valiant intifadah whose heroes are demonstrating the most splendid images of sacrifice and steadfastness? On the contrary, this crime has treacherously stabbed every devout struggler who believes that the national struggle has its own ways and methods other than killing innocent people.

The paper adds: There could not be a single objective behind this reckless incident that would benefit the Arab cause. The incident could harm every Arab stand and confirm the distorted image which the Arab nation's enemies have been trying to propagate everywhere. AL-AKHBAR compares the culprits to a man who smashes his friend's head in to ward off a fly which was bothering him.

In its editorial, AL-JUMURIYAH says that the principal responsibility for this and other acts of violence should be shouldered by those who kept the door of violence wide open in the Middle East. The paper adds that Sharon, the butcher of Beirut, and other hawks in Israel who held Egypt responsible for the attack on the bus have forgotten the thousands of Arab Palestinians against whom Israel is daily applying its iron fist policy. They have forgotten that Israel is killing their youth, subduing them with poisonous gas, and breaking their bones mercilessly.

Continuing its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that the extremists in Israel have also forgotten the occupied Arab land which Israel and its supporters have been preparing for an army of Soviet Jews brought to a usurped land. These extremists only remember that the attack on the bus took place in Egypt, as if there were no other similar incidents in Israel itself.

AL-AHRAM on PLO Statement

NC0902153390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' has described the PLO's statement regarding the bus incident which took place on the desert road between Cairo and Ismailia as a disappointment to many who defend the Palestinian cause in its broad and comprehensive sense.

In his weekly column appearing in today's AL-AHRAM, Nafi' writes: The least that can be said about this statement is that it is feeble and weak and that it absolutely does not reflect the ugliness of the incident, which was planned in snake pits and carried out to serve objectives which are not in the interests of Egypt, the Arabs, the cause of peace, or the goals of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Nafi' adds: We do not want to go as far as saying that the statement runs counter to what the PLO did when it renounced terrorism in the Cairo declaration, to which Yasir 'Arafat has committed himself and which provides for not carrying out operations against the Israelis outside the occupied territories. Nafi' wonders whether it was Palestinians instigated by groups which adopt a rejectionist and extremist stand toward all 'Arafat's political, moral, and even tactical moves who chose Egypt as the site of this thoughtless act of terrorism.

In conclusion, Nafi' says: Such a weak statement is not the way to deal with the issue of terrorism which only serves the enemies of the Arabs, particularly if such a crime takes place on Egyptian territory.

AL-AHRAM on Peace Process

NC0902075790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0638 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper asserts that the peace process in the Middle East will not stop and notes that the Israeli tourist bus incident has again disclosed the deep tragedy afflicting the region in the absence of genuine peace. In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM says that this criminal act also shows the pressing need to expedite steps to achieve peace, because the absence of peace prepares the ground for morbid minds to behave abnormally, to display their radical identity, and to wager on the soundness of their intransigent logic and ideas.

AL-AHRAM states that such an act should prod Israel toward moderation, not intransigence, because all policies of suppression, violence, and arbitrariness have only resulted in such responsive actions in which innocent civilians have paid the price.

AL-AHRAM expresses its amazement at and denunciation of Israeli Minister of Industry and Trade Ari'el Sharon's statement in which he claimed that Egypt is responsible for the armed attack on the Israeli bus. It says that he is the first to know that he is in the forefront of those responsible for the violence and radicalism prevailing in the region, given his absurd ideas, expansionist intention, and limitless ambitions.

AL-AHRAM points out that Sharon, whose hands are still stained with the blood of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila camps in Lebanon, ignores all facts and ramifications. He bases his argument only on the fact that the incident occurred on Egyptian soil, although he is the first to know that he and his kind sowed the seeds of violence; they were the obdurate hawks who forced their government to continue with the iron-fisted policy. AL-AHRAM says that if Egypt bears the responsibility for the incident, as Sharon claims, who is responsible for the many similmar incidents that are carried out by Palestinians inside Israel itself? Concluding, the paper condemns the masterminds of this heinous crime in the name of Palestinian struggle, which has nothing to do with it. It asks what gain they have made and what achievement they have made for the Palestinian struggle with this crime.

AL-AHRAM on Egyptian Policy

NC1002091190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—The Egyptian statements describing the attack against a bus carrying Israeli tourists as a criminal act were consistent with and motivated by the principles governing Egyptian policy in theory and practice, according to AL-AHRAM. The paper adds that the safety of all humans everywhere, without exception, is a self-evident cultural reality distinguishing progress from backwardness.

In an editorial today, the paper notes that this stand is not new for Egypt, rather it is a natural continuation of the long Egyptian struggle to preserve the Palestinians' right to their territory and homeland. This is consistent with Egypt's constant rejection of violations of legitimate human rights.

AL-AHRAM affirms that Egypt seeks to uproot terrorism, violence, and bloodletting in the Middle East through peace and dialogue. This can only be achieved by recognizing the legitimate rights of all parties concerned and abiding by international charters and resolutions.

The paper adds that condemning terrorism is an indivisible stand with no distinction between one incident and another. Hence, the paper says, the only cure is the comprehensive one: to reach a peace agreement and return the legitimate rights, so the effects of violence can truly be eliminated.

*Cairo Said To Seek Improved Relations With USSR

45000078 Paris AL-FURSAN in Arabic 20 Jan 90 p 32

[Text] Exclusive information leaked from official circles in Cairo says that the Egyptian Government has recently proceeded to redefine its relations with the Soviet Union in light of rapid international developments. To start with, this is out of a desire to establish a balance in Egypt's relations with the powers that are influential in international political and economic decisionmaking and in a future settlement in the Middle East.

This information noted that authorized Egyptian decisionmakers have affirmed the necessity of buttressing the current cooperation between Cairo and Moscow in all technical, scientific, and technological fields. Considering the Soviet expertise in these fields, this will ensure for Egypt the greatest possible benefit from Soviet participation, which is distinguished from its competition by its reasonable cost and freedom from economic and political considerations. Soviet participation in industrial and economic planning and increasing the volume of exchange in the commodities and tourism fields will also be strengthened.

Ghali Addresses African Liberation Committee

NC1202201490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1211 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said Egypt and all Africans these days are jubilant for the release of African leader Nelson Mandela, who set the most magnificent example of steadfastness and sacrifice. His release, he added, affirms that the haughty racism in South Africa will not be able to halt history and turn back the clock. It is necessary, therefore, to launch a joint struggle to obtain our people's freedom in South Africa.

Addressing the inaugural meeting of the 53d session of the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa, which opened in Cairo today, Ghali said: Despite the victories we achieved so far in our confrontation with Pretoria's apartheid regime, we will continue to tighten the blockade on the South African regime until our brothers there are fully free from the humility of racism and segregation and are on the road to democracy, justice, and equality.

Ghali added: Our African continent cannot live apart from the atmosphere of international detente that has swept the entire world, heralding the beginning of a new phase of peace and harmony instead of confrontation and tension. We are advocates of peace, negotiations, and dialogue, as enthusiastically as we struggle to restore our rights and defend our principles.

Ghali appealed to the African National Congress and the Azanian People's Organization to begin working immediately to reconcile and to avert division, especially at the present stage, which requires quickly adopting a new strategy for struggle that will counter new developments in South Africa. He pointed out that it is time the two movements began a serious action for reconciliation, harmony, and solidarity, asserting the African traditions that protected our movement in the past. He stressed that Egypt will continue to promote understanding, brotherhood, and friendship between the African National Congress and the Azanian People's Organization. [passage omitted]

Ghali Calls for Dialogue in Ethiopia

NC1202111490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1101 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt is closely following developments in Ethiopia. In a statement today, Dr Ghali said Egypt appeals to the parties to the dispute to use dialogue and negotiations to find a peaceful settlement that will preserve Ethiopia's territorial unity and establish peace and stability in the region.

UAE President Arrives for Visit 11 Feb

NC1102160090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak met Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], at Aswan Airport this afternoon. President Mubarak accompanied the great Arab guest in a car from the airport to the Cataract Hotel, where he is staying. [passage omitted]

In a statement to reporters, Shaykh Zayid said that his visit to Aswan is considered a visit to all Egypt. He said that the purpose of his trip to Egypt and meeting with President Mubarak is to examine all aspects of the issues pertaining to the Arab nation, in the service of the Arab nation.

Commenting on his brother Shaykh Zayid's visit, President Mubarak said that his excellency is a long-time friend of Egypt. He adopted magnanimous and courageous positions on Egypt before and after the October War, he stated. [passage omitted]

Meets With Mubarak

NC1202101990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0941 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Aswan, 12 Feb (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that President Husni Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], held a private two-hour meeting last night. He added that they discussed Arab and international issues, bilateral relations, and other matters of mutual interest.

The information minister reported that Egyptian and UAE delegations also held a meeting which was attended

by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the information minister as well as a number of UAE officials accompanying Shaykh Zayid.

Mozambican Foreign Minister Arrives

NC1202055590 Cairo MENA in English 2230 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, Feb 11 (MENA)—The foreign minister of Mozambique, Dr. Pascoal Mocumbi, arrived here tonight on a three-day visit to Egypt. He will attend the meetings of the coordination committee on the liberation of Africa due to be inaugurated tomorrow by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

The Mozambican foreign minister said the committee will discuss the independence of Namibia and the situation in South Africa.

"I shall discuss with Dr Ghali bilateral relations and the means of promoting cooperation between the two countries," he added.

Senegalese Minister Arrives With Message

NC1002142190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0927 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall arrived in Cairo this morning to visit for several days. While in Cairo, he will attend the meetings of the coordinating committee for the liberation movements of Africa, which will begin on 12 February.

Upon arrival, the Senegalese minister stated that he is carrying a message to President Husni Mubarak from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. He added that he will resume the talks he had started in Jeddah with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the problems of OAU member states.

Asked whether he will meet with the Mauritanian foreign minister, he said he is ready to meet with any African foreign minister to resolve the problems of the OAU member states.

Mauritanian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1102113490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1054 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Mauritanian Foreign Minister Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba has expressed his country's appreciation for the efforts being exerted by President Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as OAU chairman, to resolve the Senegalese-Mauritanian dispute.

Speaking upon his arrival in Cairo today, the Mauritanian minister said the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute is not easy one. We appreciate the Egyptian efforts to resolve the matter and we affirm Mauritanian's eagerness to settle the issue peacefully. The Mauritanian minister described as groundless reports in the Western media on Mauritania's maltreatment of Senegalese refugees, who number some 250,000. He also said he will sign a cooperation agreement between Egypt and Mauritania that will cover several fields during his visit to Cairo.

Regarding the meetings of the coordinating committee for the liberation movements of Africa which he will attend in Cairo, he said that these meetings coincide with a number of important achievements at the African liberation level, such as the independence of Namibia and the expected release of African nationalist Nelson Mandela. He stressed that the meetings will contribute to resolving the issues of apartheid and African liberation.

Concludes Visit

NC1402105790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Mauritanian Foreign Minister Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba left Cairo for home this morning after a three-day visit to Egypt during which he attended the meetings of the 53d session of the coordination committee for the liberation of Africa.

In a predeparture statement, the Mauritanian minister said that he was received by President Husni Mubarak this morning for a discussion of the efforts being made to resolve the Senegelese-Mauritanian problem. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Presents Proposals on Senegal-Mauritania

NC1402124690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak, who is the current OAU chairman, has presented some proposals for resolving the Senegalese-Mauritanian problem to the foreign ministers of the two countries.

This was stated by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, following President Mubarak's audience with the Senegalese and Mauritanian ministers this morning. He added that agreement was also reached on holding a new round of negotiations between the two countries in Addis Ababa on 20 February during the OAU foreign ministers conference. He noted that the two ministers pledged to continue these contacts until a peaceful solution to the conflict is reached.

Dr Ghali said that the foreign ministers reviewed their countries' stands on the conflict with President Mubarak during the one-hour meeting and that discussions showed that the two countries have the political will to find a settlement to this conflict, that they have full confidence in President Mubarak's mediation and are committed to it, and that Dakar and Nouakchott will consider President Mubarak's proposals for a peaceful settlement. [passage omitted]

Dr Ghali said that the Senegalese and Mauritanian foreign ministers held five unofficial meetings in Cairo on 11, 12, and 13 February which he attended. He added that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has prepared a detailed report on the efforts made to achieve a peaceful solution to this conflict. This report will be submitted to the African committee for resolving this dispute and to the African foreign ministers in Addis Ababa later this month. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1302130090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit of several days. He will meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Meets With Mubarak

NC1402140590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1243 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a written message from Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah during his meeting today with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah.

The Bahraini foreign minister said after the meeting that contacts between the two countries are taking place within the framework of brotherly cooperation and close ties and noted that these contacts deal with bilateral and current Arab issues. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi Telephone Conversation Noted

NC1302192290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Libyan Revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had a telephone conversation this evening, the third one this week. The two leaders discussed issues concerning both countries.

Official Leaves for Chad With Mubarak Message

NC1402104690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Dr Munir Zahran, head of the international organizations department at the Foreign Ministry, left Cairo for Chad this morning on a three-day visit.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Zahran said that he is carrying an oral message from President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as OAU chairman to Chadian President Hissein Habre.

Islamic Group Opts for Dialogue With Government

JN2201071390 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Jan 1990 pp 1, 2

[Text] In a news conference yesterday at the al-Iman Bi Allah Mosque in the Imbabah area, the Islamic Group declared its readiness to open direct dialogue with the government; namely with the new interior minister, Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa. The group welcomed the dismissal of former Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr, and expressed the need to review security policy on the basis of respect for the Egyptian citizen's dignity and freedom. Additionally, the group called for the freedom to preach and freedom of opinion. It also demanded the prosecution of the former interior minister for his crimes against the people and to punish him for ordering the assassination of about 30 young men and of torturing thousands of young men, women, and children. In the statement released to reporters during the news conference, the group said that by protecting this criminal the government contradicts its announced policy that no one is above the law.

The Islamic Group also called for prosecuting officers who tortured detainees and prisoners during the former minister's term of office. The statement named some nine of these police officers. The group called for restoring all the usurped mosques and lifting the security measures imposed on Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, secretary general of the Islamic Group, and ensuring his freedom of travel and movement. The statement further demanded improving prison conditions and halting the process of slow death that the detainees suffer in the Turrah prison.

At a conference in Bani Suwayf the day before yesterday, the Islamic Group stated that it is a leading group in terms of maintaining security and stability in Egypt. Some 15,000 citizens attended the conference. The Interior Ministry had released some 23 detainees from Bani Suwayf. The Interior Ministry did not object to several meetings held by the group, which were held amid extremely simple security measures.

Islamic Development Bank To Finance Project

NC0502220590 Cairo MENA in English 1850 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, Feb 5 (MENA)—The electricity sector will get 17 million dollars dollars from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to finance expansions at a power plant west of the capital here.

An agreement to this effect was signed here today by Dr. Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, IDB president and al-Sayyid 'Isa, chairman of Egypt's electricity authority.

Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy who attended the signing ceremony, said that those expansions will upgrade the plant's capacity to 650,000 kilowatts. It will enter into service of the unified power grid by 1992, he added.

The bank's president, who arrived here yesterday for a few days' visit, said that IDB finances some development projects in Egypt in conjunction with several international development financing institutions.

IDB contributions to Egypt total about 158 million dollars and they go to the sector of electricity and some small industries' projects, he said.

He is to continue his talks today with Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, minister of industry. Tomorrow he will be meeting with Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing, utilities and new communities.

World Bank Loan To Renovate Irrigation Stations

JN0402211690 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD] has agreed to grant Egypt a $31 million loan to finance the purchase of equipment and spare parts for the renovation of 50 irrigation stations in the governorates of the Republic.

'Free Market' Trade With East Europe Planned

NC0602134390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—The Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade has drawn up a new plan to stimulate Egyptian exports to Eastern European countries, aside from the Soviet Union, in light of the reports received by the ministry from the commercial representation offices in these countries to the effect that they do not intend to renew government-to-government commercial arrangements with other countries.

A ministry official said that the plan will be designed to accommodate the policies of the new leaderships in Eastern European countries regarding the importation of foreign goods to meet consumption needs in these countries. The official explained that there is great demand for Egyptian products in these countries because of their competitive prices and high quality.

The official said that both the public and private sectors will be active in exporting to Eastern European countries, noting that commercial exchange between Egypt and these countries will be based on free market forces and nongovernmental deals.

The same official said that exchanges are underway between Egypt and the USSR to agree on the size of the equal trade deals which will be implemented outside the framework of the bilateral trade protocol for this year. He mentioned that Egyptian and Soviet trade officials will meet in Moscow in March to hold new talks concerning the five-year trade protocol which will go into effect next year and which will involve trade to the value of 1 billion pounds sterling.

Economy Minister Outlines Anti-Recession Measures

NC0402065190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 4 Feb 90

[From the press review]

[Text] On its front page, AL-AHRAM highlights Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa's statement that the government intends to pursue a comprehensive strategy to remedy the economic recession and curb the random price hikes. Toward that end, the government will impose strict measures to monitor the prices of basic goods and services, shorten the chain of middlemen between the producer and the consumer, cut red tape in the private sector establishments and give them greater independence and freedom of decisionmaking, and upgrade the selection and training of management cadres.

Health Minister Reports 27 AIDS Cases

JN0302141090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Health Minister Dr Muhammad Raghib Duwaydar has stated that there are 27 AIDS cases in Egypt. In a report he sent to the People's Assembly, Dr Duwaydar said that 13 of these cases have the disease as a result of blood transfusions abroad, four cases from their treatement with imported blood components, five cases from abnormal sexual relationships, three cases from drug addiction and infected syringes, and the remaining two cases are that of a newborn child and his mother who carries the disease.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Nasir University Students

LD1302101190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2024 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Address by President al-Qadhdhafi to Nasir University students on 12 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] If this is really the department of political sciences, I would like to [changes thought], if you are serious about studying political sciences. I mean, if you really understand politics, as you are in the department of political sciences, because the political sciences we benefit from [changes thought], and not just killing time like this for four years, or are they two years? If it is political sciences, then we are interested in the problem of the hour. The problem of the political hour, that which we are living now. It is not beneficial, if we are

serious about studying politics and political sciences, to study politics from books without leaving any room for the problem of the hour. [passage omitted]

Concerning what is happening in Armenia and Azerbaijan, some cries have appeared, regrettably out of ignorance, in the Islamic world, talking about Muslims, their massacres, and their oppression. This is not true, because the Soviet Union is no longer oppressing religions nowadays. It is no longer interested in religious or nationality questions. It is true that in past years Gorbachev himself used to be against religion, and Marxism originally rejects nationalism and religion. It means that religion staged a victory over Marxism, and nationalism staged a victory over Marxism. They are stronger. Marxism rejects religion. This means that the individual's instinct of possession defeats communism too, because it is stronger. What is taking place now in Armenia and Azerbaijan is in fact a national conflict according to the "Green Book." [passage omitted]

A country formed of many nationalities will split up because there will be a conflict between nationalities. This is the social factor, which as we have said, constitutes in the end the map of the world.

The conflict is now between the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis, which are two different nationalities. It is not religion, or anything else—never, because many among the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis are Muslims, and the majority in the two countries are Muslims. [passage omitted]

This is a national conflict over a piece of land in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, which had been invaded by the Armenians. I mean the Armenians captured a piece of land in Azerbaijan, and the latter attacked them. Then the conflict started between the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis. Azerbaijan is a nation fighting for independence. Part of it is in Iran, another part in the Soviet Union, and another part is in Turkey. It will fight like the Kurds, some of whom are in Iran, some in Iraq, and others in Turkey, and yet others in the Soviet Union. They want to unite themselves, like the Albanians, some of whom are in Yugoslavia, and others in Albanian. They want Great Albania. [passage omitted]

Conflicts will appear between many nationalities in the Soviet Union and other countries in the world. Even America will be, in the future, like Lebanon. There will be civil wars between the blacks who are persecuted, the Indians who are oppressed, extinct, massacred and deprived of their land, the Yankee invaders, the Jews and the Americans. [passage omitted]

What is happening in Arab countries with governmental regimes is that the peoples are marching towards authority. Fortunately, up to now in Tunisia and Algeria this march is taking a calm and peaceful form.

In Algeria, there is something which you have not realized, and you do not know about that country. Algeria is a people's state to a great extent. Algeria is the state of people's councils. Algeria is governed by people's councils. Of course they are smaller in status than the people's congresses. [passage omitted]

These parties which you see in Algeria do not rule. Those are leaders who want to be prominent. They are psychological and social diseases of individuals who live in the era of governments and the government theory. Everyone wants to be the leader of a party and the leader of the opposition, and to have followers and an entourage. This is the story. The parties in Algeria are a storm in a teacup. They have no value. Algeria is governed by the people's councils and the executive committees. [passage omitted]

In Algeria, any party is finished once it is given a license. The people shun it. It becomes evident that there is one person who wants to rule the people. One person, who wants to show off and enjoy the feeling that he has followers and an entourage. This has become well known in Algeria. In the beginning they say: We are for the religion and for whatever—God is greater—there is no god but God, and young people enthusiastically gather around him. When he is given a license and becomes a political party who wants to rule, then they say: You want to be a president in Chadli's place—where now is Allah is greater, and all these things you said? What is the meaning of Allah is greater in an Islamic country? It is used to subjugate the people and reach the seats of power. This game of the multiparty system has been exposed, especially in Algeria, where there are all these societies and parties.

It is better that President Chadli did not take a timorous stance towards this confrontation. He let it end wherever it would. He knew what the end would be . Alright, he said, whoever wants to form a party or a society could do so. Give them a license. Give them licenses. In the end they turned out to be nothing. They are fighting each other. The parties are now quarrelling with each other. There are no parties, they all are small groups.

Some people were afraid. They said some people demanded a return to Berbers and to make the Amizigh language into a national language. First of all the Amazigh language is the ancient Yemeni Arabic. We are not afraid of it. It is our ancient language. But who among us now talks the languages of Ad, Thamud, Himyar, Amaliqah or Qahtan? What will we do with such a language? They are similar to the language of the Companions of the Cave. We are Arabs, and they have an ancient extinct language. If they tell us to learn it now, then this is a conspiracy against us. They would be trying to push us back 5,000 years or 1,000 years. We have our modern Arabic. We pray to God that we can preserve it and that it will not be replaced by English or Roman script. We can just about preserve it. How about someone asking for the Amazigh language? The Amazigh language is a myth. What can we do with it? In Algeria they asked him [as heard] for the Amazigh language, and he said: Alright, if you like it, here you are, read it. They could not find it. It was a demand by someone who

wanted to preside over the people, and was then exposed. No one is looking for the Amazighs? What are those Amazighs? He told them: Do you want the Amazigh language? Here you are, read it, learn it, write it. They found out that it cannot be read or written, and that it does not exist, and thus they have nothing. Then they turned around and asked: What are you talking about Amazighs?

The truth is someone wanted to create a Berber opposition, so that the people would say: Oh, this is a Berber opposition. It is revealed that the Berbers were originally Arabs. Pre-Islamic Arabs. Then there is no ethnic side to the problem. We cannot divide the Arabs into emigration periods: One emigration group 5,000 years ago, another 10,000 years ago, and a third 1,000 years ago. We cannot divide the Arabs according to periods of emigration. The emigration was in one wave after another. In the end they formed the Arab existence between the ocean and the Gulf. They are the same by origin, belonging, and fate. Even if a foreigner came, he would have melted in this entity and became an Arab. If someone among us found out that his ancestors were from Spain, then if he goes to Spain and tells them that my great-great-great-grandfather was from Spain, do welcome me, they would tell you that you will remain a Libyan or Arab until doomsday. [passage omitted]

It is the people's councils and the executive committees that govern in Algeria. The political system in Algeria is closer to the Jamahiri system; it is not a Jamahiri system but a pseudo-Jamahiri system. The Algerian experiment is something you should know about, you should study, in political science. Political parties in Algeria are empty shells, they are of no significance, they do not govern at all, and they cannot do anything, unless one of them wants to stage a coup d'etat and assume power. If it assumes power it will come into conflict with the other parties, and fighting between them would start. This is an endless spiral! If a party governs, it will have to stage a revolution against another party; if a group of parties assume power, they would be resisted by a number of other parties; and so on. The answer is for all the people to assume power, that is, for the establishment of people's power, people's congresses, and people's committees.

Regarding the religious dimension, religious people in Algeria are divided amongst themselves, that is, into two or three groups. As far as religion is concerned, there is only one religion, but when it comes to politics and the means of achieving power, the religious movement becomes diverse. This means that they have nothing to do with the Islamic religion. They are political parties.

Regarding Tunisia, which you asked about, pluralism is permitted within the existing limits. There are religious groups in Tunisia calling for recognition, but President Ben Ali is of the opinion that, since Tunisia is an Islamic country, would the existence of an Islamic party make those outside the Islamic party infidels? He said he cannot allow a situation whereby those outside the Islamic party could be labelled non-Mulsims. He told them, I cannot allow an Islamic party in a Muslim country. There is a saying in Algeria which says, how can you have a communist party in a communist country? They said, no. But the events which occurred after this saying confirmed what was said before: that there is no communist party in a communist country. It became evident that the country was not communist and, consequently, the communist party collapsed. This has happened throughout Europe and the Soviet Union. But this is a Muslim country, how can we establish an Islamic party in it? When the communist party is removed from Romania, that country ceases to be communist, but if we removed the Islamic party from Tunisia, the country remains Islamic. If we remove the Islamic tendency part from Algeria, the country remains Islamic. So what is the excuse for the existence of an Islamic party in the midst of an Islamic people? [passage omitted]

I am not talking about the Islamic trends in Tunisia or Algeria, or the Islamic trends that are currently prevalent in the international Islamic leadership. These are all logical; that is to say, they are all peaceful. However, there are other groups which are covert. The propagators of atheism in Islam in the Abasite days have reemerged under the names of liberation, brothers, hijrah, penance, call, and jihad. This is atheism, which would greatly harm Islam. Islam will end with the emergence of these groups. They will change it into assassinations, covert action, or physical exercise. What are these groups? An Islamic group training secretly in physical fitness. They have someone responsible for sports and another for arms; stealing, buying and storing them. This is a gang. Islam is not like this, especially in the Islamic world. You can go and speak on the pavement, and read the whole of the Koran; who would stop you? You can say, brothers, let us pray; who would stop you? However, if you say, I want to rule, to assassinate, and to cooperate with the United States, this would be atheism that will harm Islam. It will harm Islam. It must be resisted without compromise, because it would harm Islam before harming the people's authority and politics. This is heresy and atheism in its full sense; have a look in the dictionary for the meaning of atheism.

If these covert groups which are called liberation, hijrah, brothers, or penance ruled, they would be just like the communist parties in Eastern Europe; a minority ruling the majority and imposing its control and dictatorship on the people. It will rule over women and men, impose the veil and segregation at school, and introduce Islamic punishment—this one's hand will be cut off, and that one's arm will be cut off, and another will be banished from the earth. All this nonsense which is useless today will be brought upon us. [passage omitted]

If you are ruled by a religious minority, they will be falsely ruling in the name of God. Therefore, you would not be able to oppose anything it did, because you would be opposing the will of God. It will be a theocratic rule,

as you would call it in Latin. Theocratic rule is one of the vilest and most dangerous kinds of rule. [passage omitted]

They said, alone are Muslims and the rest are infidels, [words indistinct] and beheading by the sword. Why do they behead people? They said that carrying out the death sentence by beheading was practiced during the Islamic conquest against the infidels. They said, you are infidels and therefore you should be beheaded. [laughter] It is true; their death sentences—if they rule—would be by beheading by using the sword and cutting off every finger. That means they would put your fingers under the guillotine and cut them off. Why? They say that God has ordered that. They falsify the Koran. What a tragedy if they rule! This is not their era—it is not the era of rule by the minority. Even the prophets would not be able to rule if they were alive today. They would voice their call, and that would be that.

Those who believe in Marxism and communism and so on are prophets in what they believe only, but they cannot rule. This is the era of the masses. Who said that communism in Eastern Europe was evil? It was not evil at all; it was good. But it has been rejected because it represents a minority. But for the communist party, the Soviet Union would not have become a great power, as it is now. But for the revolutionary minority, the Soviet Union would not have been as it is now. But it has been rejected, as it is a minority.

The era now is the era of the masses. If there is a religious minority ruling, the situation would become more dangerous. If the religious minority rules, it does so in the name of heaven. You cannot oppose the will of heaven. If its practices are unjust it will defend itself by saying: We are ruling in the name of God. I asked them: Brothers, how can you rule like that? They said: it is God's rule and we are ruling in God's name. [passage omitted]

However the Islamic tendencies in Tunisia and Algeria differ from the tendencies with whom we have an alliance and with whom we have one single leadership; they are not the tendencies we are talking about here; they are not the [Muslim] Brothers and the [Islamic] Liberation Party. The Islamic Liberation Party says that every martyr in Palestine has disobeyed God and is a rotten animal carcass. Why? Because there is no caliph who has ordered a jihad. They say: Wait till a caliph emerges and then he will order us to carry out a jihad. That means that we will never fight the Jews or the Christians and will not liberate Palestine. That means that we should not fight the Americans because there is no caliph who has told us to fight the Americans. No member of the Islamic Liberation Party can fight in Palestine because that will be blasphemy. See the extent of their trivialities! They alone can rule; as for us to liberate Palestine is forbidden. But we have hope, God willing, in the Arab countries we have mentioned—at least there are tendencies there towards the masses. [passage omitted]

Concerning the second question, I do not think that the guerrilla operations have stopped. I think that the guerrilla operations are continuing inside Palestine, but they are not advertising them. If you contact the real guerrilla operation rooms they will give you [details of] the operations which take place. Even Israeli records announced that guerrilla operations inside Palestine have not stopped.

They have now adopted the method of not advertising them. Even the PLO decided not to advertise its operations. This is because they think that a peaceful atmosphere could pull the carpet out from under the feet of the Israelis at the negotiations, and also so that the Israelis do not oppress the people and move toward peace [as heard]. However, the result could only be a condemnation of the Israelis, and might not (?bring us victory). This is what non-advertising might lead to. The operations are continuing every day. Every day secret operations are recorded in occupied Palestine. Some of them are announced by the Israeli television, and sometimes by the Israeli Army Radio. Sometimes they do not announce them, but local Palestinian radios announce them. But there are no communiques now saying: The group of such-and-such martyr has carried out so-and-so or such-and-such front claims responsibility for so-and-so. They have adopted this decision. [words indistinct] [applause and chanting]

Sudan

SPLA Claims Government Transport Plane Downed

EA1202173090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Another big news has just reached Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]. SPLA forces of the "Bright Star" campaign phase 3 shot down an anemy C-130 transport plane over Maridi town last Thursday, 8 February 1990. The plane was shot by a SAM heat-seeking missle and fell inside Maridi town, consumed in a huge hall of fire. The plane was transporting the unfortunate and fugitive soldiers of Brigadier Isaiah Paul from Isiro, in Zaire, to Maridi, in the Sudan.

The full C-130 load of soldiers perished in the ball of fire. Those coming out of Maridi have reported that more than 80 percent of the civil population have deserted Maridi town for the countryside, where SPLA village liberation councils are trying their best to resettle and rehabilitate them.

SPLA's Garang on War Situation, Uganda Help

AB0902100990 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 8 Feb 90

[From "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] fighting the government in southern Sudan says it is prepared to have another round of peace talks with the government, and that President Mobutu of Zaire has been asked by the OAU to mediate. Well, the new peace initiative follows fierce fighting in southern Sudan and conflicting claims about who is winning it. Rebels have captured a string of places including Kajo Kaji and Kaia, and have moved along the road between Juba and Yei, even into the outskirts of Yei town itself. But the government says it has beaten the rebels back, inflicting heavy losses on them. Well, Catherine Bond was in the Western Equatoria battle zone with the SPLA earlier this week where she met the SPLA leader, John Garang, himself. And she asked him who, according to him, had the upper hand.

[Begin recording] [Garang] At the moment, it is contested. We have the upper hand in the sense that we have come to Western Equatoria, we have taken Kajo Kaji, we have taken Kaia, we have taken Morobo, we have closed this strategic highway, and we have put out of action, more than 1,000 government troops that are now refugees in Zaire. So overall, we are doing well. Our plan is going on fine. There will be lots of fighting still, and our objective, that is, our aim of closing the Yei-Juba Road, is successful and will continue to be.

[Bond] There have been lots of accusations that Uganda has been helping you in this latest offensive. What do you say to that?

[Garang] It is absolutely not true. The fact is that it is only the SPLA that has been fighting this war ever since 1983. We have never had a single foreign soldier on our territory fighting on our side. It is the other side, on the contrary, that is using foreign troops, especially in the Air Force, in order to fight us. So the accusation about Uganda is something that has been said over and over and over. It is simply not true.

[Bond] All the same, you do seem to have quite good relations with the NRA [National Resistance Army]. I have noticed a few SPLA soldiers walking around in NRA uniforms in Kaia. How are these sorts of things happening?

[Garang] If there is anybody wearing NRA uniform or a Sudan Government uniform, guerrillas get things in one way or another—through trade, for example. And we get things in the border areas, whether this is uniform, whether this is sugar, whether this is soap: any commodity that is produced, will find a market. So seeing somebody wearing something that appears to be NRA uniform is no indication that this is assistance from Uganda.

[Bond] What about your policy of shelling Juba? Do you think it is fair to shell Juba when it seems to be civilians that get killed?

[Garang] Well, our intention is not to kill civilians. On the contrary, we value the lives of civilians, and we have been giving warnings to this effect. Our targets are military targets inside the garrison: the tanks, the Armored Corps, Radio Juba, Juba Airport. If bombs land in the wrong places, this is very unfortunate. We will try to improve the accuracy of our gunners.

[Bond] And the $100 question: When are you going to take Juba? Every year, people say this is the year that the SPLA will take Juba, and it does not happen, and everyone is still waiting. Now, you have made great gains in Western Equatoria. When are you going to close in on the capital of southern Sudan itself?

[Garang] I do not know, and I cannot really know. This is a ... [changes thought] It is a military situation, and like any other military situation, it depends on the developments that do occur. I do not know when we will take Juba. I do not know when we will take Khartoum. Our objective is not just Juba here. We are going to Khartoum as well. [end recording]

SPLA Reports Government Soldiers Executed

EA1002101690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] sources in the general headquarters in Khartoum have confirmed that all the soldiers who withdrew from Shali al 'Arab in southern Blue Nile early last November have been summarily sentenced to death by a court martial, and their execution by firing sqauds began this week. The execution of these soldiers is a continuing atrocity by the junta aimed at destroying the Sudanese Army and its replacement by the National Islamic Front [NIF] elements.

It is to be recalled that Radio SPLA carried an announcement on 28th November 1989 alerting the soldiers who withdrew from Shali al 'Arab and Kurmuk of their eminent disarmament, arrest, and court martial. This followed a message to Radio SPLA by our cells in Damazin asking the Radio SPLA to urgently alert these soldiers.

On 14th November 1989, the junta's chief of staff sent a telegram number 140870/1080 to the Damazin commander ordering the disarmament, arrest, and court martial of officers, noncommissioned officers, and men who withdrew from Shali al 'Arab, Yabus, and Kurmuk in southern Blue Nile. The fact that the junta is now executing these soldiers confirms the junta's lack of consideration and respect for the soldiers who persevered difficult conditions to defend the very junta that is now killing them.

SPLA Statement on Mistakenly Abducted Doctors

EA0802185490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Feb 90

[News statement by the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]

[Text] One: On Friday, second instant, some units of the SPLA conducted a night raid into the town of Malakal with a mission to hit some enemy military installations and to capture some enemy personnel. The raid was very successful, shattering to pieces the junta's bogus claim that Malakal is impenetrable. The raid accomplished all its military objectives.

Two: Following the withdrawal of our gallant forces from the town after the successful raid into Malakal, it was discovered that two foreigners were among those captured. It was never the intention of the SPLA forces to take them out of Malakal. However, it became impossible for the consideration of their own safety to return them into Malakal town. The SPLA forces in the area have now moved them into a secure area and have affirmed that the two medical doctors are safe and well. While the SPLM/SPLA regrets the inconvenience these doctors may have undergone, it is making all the necessary arrangements to see that these doctors are evacuated to any of the neighboring countries as soon as possible.

So, in conclusion, the SPLM/SPLA is confident that this incident will not affect the good working relations it had with MSF [Medecins Sans Frontieres], which has been rendering much needed relief to the needy population in Sudan.

Saddam, 'Arafat Review Palestinian Developments

JN1202191790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn this evening received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and president of the state of Palestine. They reviewed developments in the Palestine question and our Arab people's intifadah in the occupied territories, and stressed the need to support the intifadah and the Palestine question to enable the Palestinian people to regain their just, legitimate rights. They also reviewed current Arab developments.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Tariq 'Aziz, 'Arafat Confer

JN1002202590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, they discussed the recent developments pertaining to the Palestine question on the Arab and international level, as well as the situation in the occupied territories in light of the escalation of the popular Palestinian intifadah against the occupation troops. They also reviewed regional developments and some Arab and international issues that are of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Hani al-Hasan, adviser to president 'Arafat, and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

Envoy Meets With UN Official on Peace Process

JN1302112090 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] United Nations, Feb 13, INA—Iraq has reaffirmed that Security Council Resolution 598 and the agreement of August 8, 1988 were the documents to which the conflict parties should commit.

This was confirmed during a meeting held here last night between Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the U.N. and Mr. Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the U.N. secretary general to the Iraq-Iran negotiations.

In a statement to INA, Dr al-Anbari stated that he had informed Mr. Eliasson of Iraq's clear stand on the necessity that the Iranian side should commit to Resolution 598 and the August agreement.

The Iraqi permanent representative added that the August agreement of 1988 worked out under the auspices of the U.N. secretary general clearly provides for holding direct negotiations to reach a common understanding to the articles of Resolution 598.

He further said that he had stressed during the meeting that President Saddam Husayn's initiative and especially the article concerning the repatriation of prisoners of war represent the minimum degree Iraq could accept.

He said that the Iranian manner toward the POW's issue violates the 3rd Geneva Agreement for 1949 and all other related human and international charters.

Mr. al-Anbari's yesterday meeting with Eliasson was the second to be held in the course of one week within the frame of consultations held by the U.N. secretary general with both parties of the conflict.

The two meetings were attended by Mr. Picco, assistant U.N. secretary general for special missions.

Meanwhile, the Security Council will hold a session late this month to get acquainted with the UN secretary general ideas of his new proposed move within the frame of implementing Resolution 598.

Oil Minister Says Al-Bakr Port 'Completed'

JN0902175090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi has said that works at the fourth and final jetty of the al-Bakr Port, which is used to export crude oil, have been completed. Crude oil has been shipped from that port since June 1989. The port has an export capcity of approximately 1.6 million barrels per day.

The minister told INA that clearing of the Khawr al-'Umayyah port will begin in the near future, and that the necessary tests will be carried out to draw out a plan to rehabilitate and refurbish that port.

Oil Ministry Source Cited on New Projects

JN1202142290 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 12, INA—The Iraqi Ministry of Oil has successfully completed the expansion of the Subba [name as received] oil-field in the southern province of al-Basra which will bring the production of the field to 20,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) of international standard.

A source at the ministry of oil told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER that oil in the Subba field is estimated at 2.2 billion barrels.

To achieve the expansion programme, the Southern Oil Company of the Ministry of Oil had to drill seven more wells in addition to the three pre-drilled ones. Also, the project included the construction of one field degassing station.

The oil produced at this station is transferred to the Luhays central degassing station through a 10-inch pipeline with a length of some 39 kilometres.

The development of the oil-field included as well the building of all supporting services, facilities and systems such as electricity, water, telecommunications and road networks.

The Ministry of Oil source said that the Subba field is highly promising and that its production capacity can be expanded to 60,000 barrels. It can produce 20 million cubic feet of gas per day.

The field is located in south Iraq, west of the city al-Basra and north-west of Luhays oil-field. It extends about 30 kilometres long and seven kilometres wide.

Works in the field started in 1975 when two wells were drilled which later on led to the discovery of oil in commercial quantities.

During the last six months, the Ministry has carried out some expansion in oil-fields up and down the country.

In late November 1989, sources at the ministry had said that measures were taken to develop the Saddam oil-field in Salah-al-Din Province so as to produce about 45 million cubic feet of gas per day.

To achieve this goal, the management of the field is to carry out the drilling of 90 oil wells and five gas wells which, will bring the total to 175 for oil and 12 for gas so as to maintain oil and gas production.

The project also includes installing five field collecting manifolds, each with a capacity of 15 thousand bpd.

Earlier in November, the Ministry of Oil announced the completion of a project to expand al-Zubayr oil-field to increase its productivity by another 150,000 bpd.

The goal was to increase the field's annual production capacity from 3.5 million tons to 11 million tons.

Ministry sources said that there is still the likelihood of raising the capacity even more, depending on the progress of work.

The project was executed by the Oil Projects Company in cooperation with local and foreign contractors, while the drilling and preparation of wells were carried out by the Southern Oil Company.

The Subba field was discovered some 40 years ago and the first well was drilled in 1948.

Saddam Husayn Urges Close Contacts With People

JN1402112290 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 14, INA—President Saddam Husayn on Tuesday [13 February] urged Arab Ba'th Socialist Party members to maintain close contacts with the people in order to have an in depth knowledge of their aspirations, hopes and grievances.

In a meeting with top party officials in Babylon province, President Husayn said every party member, as a leader, should know what to tell people but it is even more important to listen to the people, know how they think and then rectify the situation by eliminating what is wrong and adopting what is right.

Referring to the regular meetings between the party officials and the people, President Husayn said that it should aim at revealing only what is genuine and true leaving no room for whispers and rumours.

Let the people who tend to air their ideas in the dark speak them up in broad day-light. In so doing, they are spared the risk of being influenced by inaccuracies after they are exposed to the right viewpoint, the president said.

The people need to hear the truth so that none would be left with a feeling that he had been done injustice, which is a destructive and bitter situation for anybody to find himself in. The president urged the party officials to endeavour to eliminate any case of injustice which is likely to be encountered by the people.

The president said that the Ba'thists' relations with the people ought to be one of genuine interaction.

He added that Ba'thists usually derive their satisfaction from the state of prosperity they try to bring about to the people. In contrast, the president said, it would be very depressing to see some people unhappy or some party members have deviated from the right course.

The president called for involving the people in solving any problem that might be aired during a party-people gathering so that every Iraqi would feel that he is taking part in drawing up plans for a problem-free country.

The president stressed that the people would remain, in the eye of Ba'thists, the source of inspiration and undepleting sacrifice.

"When we ask about the conditions of the people in Babylon (province), we will be asking about the Iraqi people nationwide as Babylon is one of Iraq's provinces and its people are part of the people of Iraq," the president said. However, he stressed that the special characteristics of every province should be taken into consideration with a view to facilitating the right decision.

The president stressed that there should be a balance between rights and duties. He warned that if duties are infringed upon, there is a possibility that rights could be sacrificed.

Saddam, Kelly Discuss Relations, Regional Issues

JN1202124490 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 12, INA—President Saddam Husayn received in audience today U.S Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and Southeast Asia Affairs John Kelly.

During the audience, bilateral relations and means of developing them on the basis of mutual respect and joint interests were discussed.

President Husayn and Mr Kelly also discussed the regional and international issues of common concern as well as the Palestinian question, and the necessity of achieving the legitimate and just goals of the Palestinian people.

During the audience, President Husayn and Mr Kelly confirmed the necessity of realizing durable and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran and promoting the peace, security and stability opportunities in the region.

The audience was attended by Mr Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the U.S. Ambassador in Baghdad.

Ramadan Leads Official Delegation to Sanaa

To Attend Joint Meetings

JN1002113690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, left for Sanaa today, leading an official delegation, to chair the Iraqi side at meetings of the Iraqi-Yemeni Joint Committee. The meetings begin in Sanaa later today. In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he will convey a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Yemen Arab Republic President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on cooperation, affirming the pride of the Iraqi leadership and people in the progress of cooperation so far and Iraq's interest in continuing and expanding this cooperation. The message, Ramadan added, also deals with the developments in the search for a permanent and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran as well as Arab affairs in general. [passage omitted]

Returns From Sanaa 11 Feb

JN1202053790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, returned to Baghdad this evening at the conclusion of a visit to the Yemen Arab Republic during which he led the Iraqi side to the meetings of the higher Iraqi-Yemeni joint committee. He was received by RCC member Sa'dun Shakir and government ministers.

Paper Urges 'Firm' Stance Against Jewish Influx

JN1402116490 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 14, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad called on the Arab countries to move rapidly and adopt a firm and effective stance against the Soviet Jews influx into occupied Palestine and the Israeli breakthrough East European countries' front.

In its commentary published here today the paper said that the developments during the past few days had shown that Czechoslovakia had resumed its diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity after 20 years sever, where Hungary had resumed diplomatic relation with the entity while Poland was about to resume these relations.

East Germany is also submitting to the Zionist distortion and confessing its responsibilities for claims about annihiliation of Jews during the second world war with a view to resuming and normalizing relations with the Zionist entity.

The paper clarified that claims spread that resumption of relations between East European countries and the Zionist entity would contribute to pushing forward the process of peace in the Middle East. These claims are certainly nonsense, because the settlement has not been started yet and resumption of relations means breaking isolation of the occupation authorities that perpetrated massacres against the Palestinian people daily.

The paper stressed that the new international situation demanded that the Arab countries should build up a unified national stance to protect present and future of the Arab generations besides increasing moral and material support to the Palestinian uprising.

Turkish Envoy Comments on Talks, Departs

JN1202151790 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 12, INA—Mr Isin Celebi, the Turkish presidential envoy to President Saddam Husayn, left Baghdad today after a four days visit to Iraq.

In a pre-departure statement to INA, the Turkish official said he delivered President Husayn a message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal on scopes of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on issues of common interest.

Describing his visit to Iraq as successful and fruitful, he pointed that he held several meetings with Iraqi officials pertaining to means of boosting bilateral economic, trade and technical relations.

UNIIMOG Commander Jovic Leaves for Tehran

JN1302130890 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 13, INA—Maj. Gen. Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observers Group (UNIIMOG) left here for Tehran this morning.

Gen. Jovic was seen off by his assistant to the Iraqi side and a number of officers from the coordinating committee.

The commander's visit comes within the frame of his shuttle tours between the two countries to supervise implementation of ceasefire along their borders.

PLO 'To Retreat' on E. Jerusalem Delegates

TA1402084290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Feb 90 pp A1, 2

[By Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] The PLO, coordinating with leaders of Fatah supporters in the territories, has decided to retreat from its demand to include East Jerusalem representatives in the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel in Cairo.

The organization's leaders nevertheless insist on their demand to be responsible for announcing composition of the Palestinian delegation to display their role in the peace process and to signal to residents of the territories that these are official representatives operating as PLO envoys, and that no harm therefore should befall them.

The decision to back away from having East Jerusalem representatives was made in consultations between leading figures from the territories and PLO leaders after the United States recently told the organization's leaders, in direct talks in Tunis and via Egypt, that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is determined on that point.

Likud leaders and Yasir 'Arafat—who prefers to prevent Faysal al-Husayni's inclusion in the team because of his senior status in the territories, which allows him a large degree of independence—have created a sort of strange coalition against including East Jerusalem residents.

Faysal al-Husayni himself is not excited about joining talks because he is concerned about a failure in negotiations at this stage, and because he is dissatisfied with the fact representatives from the territories only would be Fatah supporters and not from the rejectionist front or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

AL-FAJR Editor Hanna Sinyurah confirmed yesterday he has been appointed a member of the delegation, and said the Palestinians do not require a special representation from East Jerusalem since the PLO, like the local residents, views the eastern part of the town as an integral part of the West Bank.

Therefore, he said: "There is no reason why East Jerusalem residents cannot be represented by Palestinians living in the territories." He nevertheless stressed the PLO is not prepared to yield its right to announce the delegation. He said one of the possibilities now being discussed is Yasir 'Arafat himself standing beside President Mubarak when the declaration is made.

Public figures in the territories responded yesterday with skepticism to the outcome of the Likud Central Committee meeting. Hanna Sinyurah said in his view, Shamir still intends to mark time and does not seriously plan to advance the peace process. Similar remarks were made by AL-QUDS Editor Dr. Sa'ib 'Arikat and attorney Ziyad Abu-Zayyad.

Shamir 'Prepared' To Include Deportees in Talks

TA1402065090 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Feb 90 p 1

[By Ilan Kfir, Yosi Werther, and Ronit Antler]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir apparently is prepared to include deportees in the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel on condition it is guaranteed they did not take part in any past terrorist activity. Shamir continues to oppose inclusion of East Jerusalem representatives in the delegation, claiming such a move would damage Jerusalem's sovereignty. Shamir plans to convey instructions to this effect to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens before his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin support inclusion of East Jerusalem representatives in the delegation on condition their permanent residences are elsewhere in the territories. Shamir has not yet agreed to this compromise formula, but his close associates said yesterday that in the final analysis, a formula could be reached to bypass the East Jerusalem Arabs obstacle.

Several Likud Knesset members [MK's] concerned over Shamir's agreement to include deportees in the delegation have conducted secret meetings on establishment of a separate faction in the Likud. MK's Mikha'el Kleiner and Tzahi Hanegbi plan to set up a body called "The Eretz Yisra'el Front" which would include the three constraints ministers and nine other MK's who oppose Shamir's concessions.

Knesset Defeats 10 No-Confidence Motions

TA1302203490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Tonight the Knesset defeated no-confidence motions submitted by the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], MAPAM [United Workers Party], Shinuy, the Progressive List for Peace, and the Arab Democratic Party over the prime minister's remarks about a greater Israel.

The Knesset also rejected the no-confidence motion submitted by Moledet and Tzomet, which complained about the unsatisfactory government mobilization for absorbing immigrants. The motion submitted by Agudat Yisra'el, which dealt with the damage to Jewish values, and Tehiya's no-confidence motion, which claimed the government is ready to include PLO-affiliated deportees in the Palestinian delegation, also were defeated. This was reported by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen.

Baker Invitation To Mean Inner Cabinet Session

TA1302162690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Report by 'Ido Shargil]

[Text] A fire exercise conducted today in the Jordan Rift Valley by an Armored Corps brigade was observed by some 700 Jewish National Fund activists from Canada and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Addressing the guests, Minister Rabin pointed to the need to maintain a powerful Israel. He later turned to more current issues. The Labor Party, he said, joined the unity government in the belief the peace process can be promoted. As long as a chance to make progress exists, we therefore will remain in the government. At the moment, the Inner Cabinet still is free from the need to make a decision.

[Begin Rabin recording, in English] When Secretary Baker sends an invitation to the two foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel to join for the formal meeting, there will be a need for an Inner Cabinet meeting. [end recording]

Minister Rabin added if the next meeting merely is one at which clarifications are provided, there is no need to make decisions.

No Likud Faction Support for Sharon, Cabinet

TA1302152890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction today did not endorse the proposal raised by the Knesset members [MK's] from the constraints camp calling upon Minister Ari'el Sharon not to resign.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports the faction furthermore did not adopt a resolution expressing confidence in the Cabinet.

Faction Chairman Sara Doron said the faction never met before for discussions of party affairs, but she called the meeting today to emphasize the faction's unity, highlight common ground, and rally round the Likud's policy and the prime minister.

MK 'Uzi Landau said the Likud's public image should be rehabilitated following yesterday's events, because the public regards the party as a boxing club, not a political party.

Shamir Victor in Poll of Likud Central Committee

TA1402103490 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Following Monday's Likud Central Committee convention, Modi'in Ezrahi's Research Institute—headed by Dr. Rahel Yisre'li—conducted a telephone poll of 380 Central Committee members. The following are the findings:

Did the Likud Central Committee express confidence in Yitzhaq Shamir's leadership?

Yes	60 percent
No	19 percent
Do Not Know/No Comment	21 percent

Did the Central Committee vote in favor of Sharon's constraints, in your view?

Yes	18 percent
No	55 percent
Do Not Know/No Comment	27 percent

Were the positions of Shamir, Sharon and Levi in the Likud strengthened or weakened?

	Sharon	Shamir	Levi
Strengthened	17 percent	45 percent	43 percent
Weakened	51 percent	19 percent	9 percent
Unchanged	20 percent	20 percent	27 percent
No Response	12 percent	16 percent	21 percent

Shamir Cancels 14 Feb Likud Ministers Meeting

TA1402103290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has canceled the Likud ministers meeting scheduled for today.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that contrary to earlier reports, Shamir is not scheduled to meet Minister Moda'i. No additional meeting between Shamir and Minister Levi has been slated, either.

Likud Groups Plan 'Independent Bloc' in Faction

TA1302202290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Members of the Likud's Liberal Faction have been conducting clandestine meetings on establishing an independent bloc in the party's Knesset faction. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports the separate body will be established if Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i is fired.

Knesset members from the Likud's Eretz Yisra'el Front furthermore also are striving to set up a new framework inside the Likud. Our correspondent notes that, if Minister Sharon's resignation becomes fact, these two groups of Knesset members will cooperate in the independent bloc.

Paper on Likud Meeting Impact on Peace Process

TA1302181390 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 13 Feb 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Shamir...After the Likud's Confidence, What?"]

[Text] The meeting of the Likud Party Central Committee, which has 3,000 members, was conducted yesterday evening. Minister Sharon opened the meeting as chairman of the committee and announced in a dramatic way his resignation from the government so that, as he claimed, he would be able to put forward his positions and ideas with total freedom and without restrictions. In reality, he was seeking to gain the approval of as many Likud Central Committee members as possible.

Indeed, Shamir emerged victorious from this meeting as two-thirds of the Central Committee members raised their hands in support when he asked them to give him their confidence. He thus succeeded in forming a crack, which he always had hoped would occur, in the facade of the constraints ministers—Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i. With immense intelligence, Shamir succeeded in isolating Sharon, who is the head of the constraints triangle, from the other two sides of the triangle—Levi and Moda'i.

If Shamir did not succeed in this, then why did Levi and Moda'i not show solidarity with Sharon, and why did not all three present their mass resignation from the government to embarass Shamir further and drive him into a corner from which he would be unable to defend himself and his policies inside the coalition government?

We are not concerned with this issue as much as its impact on the peace process. This process neither is a monopoly of the Israeli Government nor the Israeli people, but a lofty goal for which all the region's nations, foremost of which we, as a Palestinian people, are striving.

Through peace, we aspire to achieve prosperity and welfare for our coming generations. In this context, we have to emphasize Shamir has given the Likud Party everything it is seeking. He has affirmed his categorical rejection of negotiating with the PLO. He has denied it its right to represent the Palestinian people and has reinforced Arab Jerusalem's annexation to Israel. In other words, he has abolished the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to be represented in their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

Without any doubt, Shamir has succeeded in pulling the rug from under the constraints ministers, but the important question remains: Has Shamir eliminated extremism forever in the Likud, and what does he want now?

Does he really intend to continue moving toward the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace? Was his action in the Likud Central Committee no more than a maneuver only to gain support? Or did he present his initiative basically under pressure of world public opinion to coopt the resentment the world's countries have been showing incessantly against Israel's policy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

The coming days or weeks undoubtedly will reveal the aim of Shamir's intentions and tendencies and will show whether or not Shamir really is seeking the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace, or if he only is maneuvering on all levels to gain time and satisfy the United States.

No one denies the ball is in Shamir's court and he has the option: Either moving along an irreversible road to peace, or holding on to the reigns of power at the expense of Israel's interest and people. The other options of the Arab side still are valid. Suffice to note here what the Palestinian leader said two days ago: The world must realize there is a limit to patience.

Shamir Not Asking Sharon To Stay in Cabinet

TA1302104190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir considers Ari'el Sharon's letter of resignation a fait accompli and intends to accept it.

A source in the Prime Minister's Office told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Mr. Shamir does not intend to crawl on his knees and beg Sharon to reconsider. Minister Sharon himself told our correspondent nothing has changed, and the reasons for his letter of resignation remain.

The Inner Cabinet will not conduct its weekly session tomorrow. This morning Defense Minister Rabin told the Voice of Israel he does not feel the Inner Cabinet must decide as soon as this week on issues connected with furthering the political process and concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Attorney General: Sharon's Resignation Not Legal

TA1302100590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Mikha'el Birenhack, our legal affairs correspondent in Jerusalem, reports Attorney General Yosef Harish believes Minister Ari'el Sharon did not meet the legal prerequisites, and his letter therefore is not considered a letter of resignation. Attorney General Harish discussed the issue with the prime minister this morning. The legal prerequisite which was not met is an announcement to the Cabinet on the intention to resign. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning expressed satisfaction with developments in the Likud following last night's Central Committee meeting. In consultations with ministers close to him, the prime minister said, in

his view, the Likud has extricated itself from the situation it was in, and the door now has been opened to repair its twisted state and lead the Likud along new paths.

Our correspondent Yaron Deqel reports the prime minister's associates expressed disappointment with this morning's remarks by David Levi that the constraints are alive and kicking. Deqel reports no meeting so far has been set for Shamir and David Levi or Yitzhaq Moda'i.

AL-QUDS on U.S.-USSR 'Secret' Mideast Deal

TA1302145590 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 11 Feb 90 pp 1, 5

["Exclusive"]

[Text] London—Informed U.S. and European sources have disclosed the existence of a U.S.-Soviet deal on the Middle East currently under discussion by the two superpowers concerning this time the resolution of the Palestinian problem.

The deal includes for the first time the Bush administration's consent to conduct Palestinian-Israeli peace talks under joint U.S.-Soviet auspices in return for Moscow's agreement on three basic issues which concern the development of relations with Israel, giving up the demand for convening an international peace conference at this stage, and moderating the PLO's positions.

Here are the secret details and contents of this important new deal, which comes in the wake of the two superpowers' aggreement on granting Soviet Jews freedom of immigration to Israel.

Negotiations on the new deal began seriously in total secrecy several weeks ago between U.S. and Soviet officials. This was before discussion of the deal in Moscow during the talks conducted two days ago between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Early this week, before Baker's departure for Moscow, the U.S. Administration saw fit to brief some allied Western countries directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including France, on the broad outlines of the deal. The contents of the deal, moreover, were discussed recently during talks between prominent Soviet envoys and some Arab parties, as well as between two Arab parties and some West European officials.

This new U.S.-Soviet deal includes the following major elements:

1. The U.S. Administration agrees for the first time to the Soviet Union's direct participation in the peace process aimed at resolving the Palestinian problem. The U.S. Administration will not suffice just with consulting the Soviet Union on U.S. efforts to resolve the Palestinian problem and settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. From this premise, therefore, Palestinian-Israeli peace and Arab-Israeli peace will become a joint U.S.-Soviet responsibility.

2. The U.S. Administration agrees the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks be conducted under the joint auspices and supervision of the United States and the Soviet Union without the need for other great powers to participate in the process. U.S.-Soviet supervision will begin first over the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which according to James Baker's plan, is supposed to dwell on the issue of conducting elections in the West Bank and Gaza. This U.S.-Soviet supervision will continue after this in the various stages of the Palestinian-Israeli talks following elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

3. In return for this, the U.S. Administration requests the Soviet Government rapidly develop its relations with Israel, whereby the Soviet Union will adopt a decision to resume full diplomatic relations with Israel with the launching of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue or with the start of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, and not wait for the start of an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict to adopt a decision on resuming ties with Israel.

4. The U.S. Administration also requests the Soviet Government give up its demand, at this stage, for the convocation of an international peace conference on the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict and to agree to conducting Palestinian-Israeli talks outside the framework of the international conference.

5. The U.S. Administration also expects the Soviet Union to moderate PLO positions regarding its conditions on launching a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and conducting elections in the West Bank and Gaza. U.S. officials believe, in this connection, that the PLO still is committed to fulfilling some of its demands before it will agree to form the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with the Israelis, and that the Soviet Union can play an effective role to moderate the PLO's positions regarding this.

This is the content of the new U.S.-Soviet deal which was discussed during the Baker-Shevardnadze talks in Moscow, and which is the subject of fresh negotiations between the two superpowers.

Informed U.S. diplomatic sources have stressed Baker briefed Shevardnadze in detail about the different points concerning launching of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and conducting elections in the West Bank and Gaza, and discussed with him some of the obstacles still preventing the launch of this dialogue.

It has been learned that before Baker's departure for Moscow, Egypt informed the U.S. Administration of its consent to the Soviet Union's participation in the peace process, as well as its agreement on conducting a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue under joint U.S.-Soviet supervision. The upcoming visit President Husni Mubarak intends to make to the Soviet Union in March falls

within this framework. On the other hand, the Israeli Government still has not given its response on this issue and is awaiting the results of the Baker-Shevardnadze talks in Moscow and the Soviet Union's agreement to rapidly resume diplomatic relations with Israel.

Official U.S. and Soviet sources are maintaining silence about the details and contents of this entire issue at this stage. Of course, it is not expected all the details of this deal will be announced at once and after the conclusion of Baker's visit to Moscow, but it is expected the details and contents gradually will be leaked in the coming stage and according to the progress of U.S.-Soviet talks on this issue, and also according to the progress of the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli-Palestinian contacts.

This new U.S.-Soviet deal comes in the wake of the first deal concluded between the two superpowers during talks between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Gorbachev in Malta at the beginning of December, which resulted in giving complete freedom to Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel in return for the U.S. Administration's consent to abolish the restrictions on free commercial exchange between the two superpowers and to develop trade and economic ties between these two countries.

Peretz: Emigrants Need Help Wherever They Head

TA1402133490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Immigrant Absorption Minister Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz said at the Knesset the Jews should be taken out of the Soviet Union regardless of where they head.

He said when Jews sit on a volcano, we must not scrutinize each case with a fine-tooth comb and present them with the condition we will help them leave only if they come here. These are selfish, inexcusable terms to present, the minister said. He claimed it currently is necessary to seek every way to help the Soviet Jews get out, if they leave for the United States, Uganda, or any place they want.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh says Minister Peretz' remarks clearly contravene the position of the Cabinet, which has taken action to limit the dropout rate and pressure the United States to prevent the entry of Jews holding Israeli visas or arriving on a refugee status.

The Prime Minister's Bureau refused to address Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz' remarks. The Bureau personnel wished only to recall Minister Peretz is responsible only for immigrant absorption in Israel.

Knesset Member Mikha'el Kleiner, the chairman of the Knesset's Immigration and Absorption Committee, called on Minister Peretz to assist the process of the return of thousands of Jews to their homeland and to refrain from sabotaging it. According to Kleiner, Minister Peretz's description of the dangers faced by the Soviet Jews are highly exaggerated, as he has fallen victim to intimidation campaigns run by groups with a vested interest in arousing panic, who thus wish to push the Jews to the United States.

Kleiner said any Jew who wishes to immigrate to Israel can do so, whereas the waiting period for those who wish to leave for the United States currently is eight months. The chairman of the Knesset's Immigration and Absorption Committee also said, in February, 8,000 Jews are expected to arrive from the Soviet Union, compared with 5,000 last month.

CSSR Official Supports Czech Transit Station

TA1302103890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Feb 90 p A9

[By Arye Bender]

[Text] CSSR Deputy Premier Josef Hromadka supports opening a transit station for Soviet immigrants in Prague.

At a news conference he conducted yesterday in Jerusalem to mark the end of his visit to Israel, Hromadka said: "My personal opinion is if thousands of Soviet troops could be stationed in our country for 20 years, we should find no difficulty in temporarily hosting immigrants wishing to leave the Soviet Union for Israel."

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had raised the issue last week with the president of the CSSR, but did not receive a clear answer on the matter.

150,000 Aliyah Invitations Sent Monthly to Jews

TA0202143290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Israel is sending 150,000 aliyah invitations per month to the USSR.

Thousands of invitations are being sent every day. At this rate, sending invitations to those wishing to immigrate to Israel will end in a few months. These data were reported by our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh in response to remarks by Minister Ari'el Sharon alleging there is a shortage of invitations to Jews who wish to emigrate from the USSR.

Our correspondent adds that 110,000 Jews in the USSR are about to receive exit permits. Their requests currently are in the final stages. Hundreds of thousands of Jews currently are beginning the process of appealing for such a permit. The Soviet authorities maintain it takes some six months to process an appeal from the time it is submitted until an exit permit is granted.

Soviet Jews Said Serving in Occupied Territories

JN0202132690 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 31 Jan 90 pp 1, 24

[Text] Washington—Soviet Jewish families arriving here from occupied Palestine have stated the first batch of Israeli reservists taken from the new Soviet Jewish immigrants has been sent to the occupied Palestinian territories for their reserve military service and to participate in curbing the Palestinian intifadah.

The families said their sons, part of a group of about 200 Israeli reservists who emigrated to Israel from the Soviet Union during the past few months, had been sent for 40 days of military service in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They expressed willingness to serve in the occupied territories.

Some of them said they read much in the Soviet press about the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories and were pleased to have been given the opportunity to participate in curbing it.

The families said their sons received 50 days of military training.

A Soviet Jew working in the Israeli immigration department meanwhile said here that 58 percent of the immigrants who arrived in Israel in 1989 were Soviet Jews, and 27,640 immigrants, including 16,765 Soviet Jews, arrived in Israel last year. He added 915 Soviet Jews settled in Jewish settlements in the West Bank, 155 settled in the Gaza Strip, and 80 in the Golan Heights.

He said statistics in the immigration department where he works indicate about 60,000 Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and about 35,000 Jewish immigrants from East Europe—half of whom are Romanian—are expected to arrive in Israel in 1990. Some 8,000-12,000 Soviet Jews, moreover, are expected to be settled in West Bank settlements and 2,000 in the Gaza and Golan settlements this year. He said about 4,000 Soviet immigrants already have gone into military service, including 1,320 who joined the regular forces.

Shamir: No Territorial Policy on Immigration

TA1302175890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] During the Knesset debate of several no-confidence motions, the prime minister said he never has resorted to territorial and geographical designations, because geography cannot be altered. Israel is a small country, the prime minister said. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen sums up the Knesset session:

The prime minister noted there has been no agreement barring Jews from living anywhere, including Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. I cannot conceive of any Israeli Government ever agreeing to barring Jews from living in every part of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Begin Shamir recording] At the same time, it will be noted the government has no specific policy of directing immigrants to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, just as it is both incapable of preventing immigrants from opting for living in those places and is unwilling to do so. Every immigrant is free to choose his place of residence as he pleases. This is the government's immigration policy.

There hence is no truth whatever in the remarks attributed to me, or in the interpretations people have made of the remarks I allegedly had made that Israel needs territories for the immigration already knocking on the doors of Eretz Yisra'el. [end recording]

The prime minister called on the Soviet Union to allow direct immigration from the USSR to Israel.

The prime minister also retorted to the Tehiya contention the government is willing to include PLO-affiliated deportees, as well as representatives from East Jerusalem, in the Palestinian delegation.

[Begin Shamir recording] I would like to say there has been no such decision, and none exists at present. Nowhere in the world have I expressed a readiness to accept these proposals. I therefore suggest this no-confidence motion submitted by Tehiya be struck off the agenda. We already have heard the fantastic exaggerations in the speech of the new Knesset Member, Ha'etzni. These were such gross exaggerations they precluded any possible element of logic and any dimension of reality. [end recording]

The prime minister likewise proposed the other no-confidence motions be rejected.

At this hour, the debate continues.

Ya'aqobi Notes Mutual Benefit in VOA Station

TA1302185790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Excerpt] A meeting was conducted in Tel Aviv this morning between Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi and a delegation on behalf of the Voice of America, which came to Israel to examine ways to accelerate establishment of the station in the 'Arava.

Minister Ya'aqobi and the station's representatives reiterated their position Israel and the United States will benefit economically from establishment of the station. It will constitute a balanced and broad source for broadcasts to Islamic countries and Soviet Asia. The ecological damage, on the other hand, virtually will be none. Our correspondent Rafi Shalhin reports:

[Begin recording] [Shalhin] We are committed to the agreements signed three years ago, says Minister Gad Ya'aqobi. These agreements will benefit both sides, even in the broad economic sense of the word.

[Ya'aqobi] In the next 25 years, the U.S. Government will spend approximately $1 billion to establish, run, and manage the station. The construction work will provide jobs for approximately 500 Israelis; 60 percent of the expenses will go toward salaries for Israeli workers.

[Shalhin] The communications minister added that about 100 Israelis will be permanently employed by the station. The plan considered the sensitivity regarding the ecological balance and environmental protection. According to research conducted by the Dimona nuclear station, the shortwaves are not dangerous. Similar radio stations operate all over the world in populated areas and farmland. The location of the station was decided upon by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Air Force, which will receive alternative training areas. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres Aide Appointed to U.S. Embassy Post

TA1402124890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Feb 90 p 10

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] Amnon Neubar, who served as an economic adviser to vice premier Shim'on Peres during his term in office as prime minister, will be appointed Israel's economic minister to Washington next week. This is the ranking position among Israel's economic and commercial attaches.

The new economic minister will replace Pinhas Dror, who has been serving in this capacity in the past four years. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Ties With Poland To Be Renewed

TA1402124290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Feb 90 p 1

[ITIM report]

[Text] Haifa—The ceremony formally re-establishing diplomatic ties between Poland and Israel will take place in Warsaw on February 27, Poland's charge d'affaires in Israel, Czeslaw Judkowski [name and title as published], said here on yesterday.

According to Judkowski, who was here for a meeting of Poland-Israel Friendship Association, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will leave for Poland on February 26. He will meet with Poland's premier and foreign minister, and these meetings will lead to the restoration of ties and the establishment of an Israeli embassy in Warsaw and a Polish embassy in Tel Aviv.

The Israeli embassy, he said, will occupy the same building it occupied before the severance of ties between the two countries in the wake of the Six-Day War.

While in Warsaw, Judkowski said, Arens will also sign several agreements promoting Israeli investment in Poland, including one preventing double taxation.

7 Golan Druze Arrested for Planning Kidnapping

TA1302105490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The security forces, in conjunction with the Galilee Subdistrict police, have uncovered two local groups organized on nationalist lines in the northern Golan. Seven Druze suspects so far have been arrested.

Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, reports they are suspected of planning to kidnap a soldier in the Golan Heights to launch negotiations for the release of prisoners. They also intended to hurl firebombs and fly Syrian flags on 14 February, the anniversary of the distribution of Israeli identity cards to the Golan Druze.

Update on Casualties in Territories 13 February

TA1402132590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Feb 90 p 10

[By Joel Greenberg and ITIM]

[Text] The body of a slain Palestinian was found yesterday evening in Ramallah, and the death of a reputed "collaborator" was reported in the village of Sinjil.

The man killed in Ramallah was identified as 'Abd-al-Jiryus, 30. Military sources said his body was found near the local cemetery and sent to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir for autopsy. There were no immediate details on the motive for the killing.

In Sinjil, north of Ramallah, relatives of Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Salam, 22, were notified by the military government of his death, Palestinians said. According to reports from the village, the body was found several days ago when local youths who had been arrested previously confessed to killing a "collaborator" and led investigators to the body. Military sources said the body had been found about 10 days ago and had been lying where it was discovered for some time.

In Bethlehem yesterday, nearly 40 Palestinian pupils suffered bruises and broken bones in a clash with Border Police at a secondary school. Students and Arab eyewitnesses said the pupils had been beaten with clubs and rifle butts, but the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said they had fallen off a high stone wall while fleeing.

Palestinians in Bethlehem said the pupils stoned the Border Police during a recess in classes at about 10 a.m., following which the Border Police entered the school courtyard and beat students with clubs and rifle butts. Mustafa Ishaq, 16, one of the injured students, said the police lined pupils against a wall and clubbed them to find out who had thrown stones.

Military sources gave a sharply different version of the events. They said a Border Police patrol, arriving at the

school after a stone-throwing incident, spotted a crowd of 40 to 50 students, who began to flee when the Border Police approached.

"During their flight, the pupils fell off a high stone fence, and about 16 were injured by the fall," a military spokesman said. "Some were treated at the scene by Border Police, and others were taken to hospital in Bayt Jala. Most have been released."

Doctors at Mt. David Hospital in Bethlehem said they had treated 20 students, six of whom sustained fractures. Officials at Husayn Hospital in Bayt Jala reported admitting 19 pupils, most of whom were later released.

In the Gaza Strip, special supervisory committees established by Gaza Strip students started maintaining order in their schools yesterday. As a result, no disturbances were recorded in Gazan schools yesterday morning.

The strict order was maintained following an advertisement that appeared in the Arab press yesterday, signed by two senior figures in the Strip. In accordance with a decision taken by the leadership in the territories, Dr. Yusuf al-Agha, who is identified with the PLO's main faction, and Dr. Mahmud Zahar, who is identified with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], called upon the students to make every possible effort to ensure that regular classes were held. The pupils were instructed to reject all efforts to tempt them into causing disturbances.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 13 February reports: "The Tel Aviv District Court sentenced a youth from Gaza to 7 years imprisonment. The youth had stabbed an elderly Jew in Tel Aviv. The incident ended without any fatalities only because the attacker's knife bent. The youth claimed that he had perpetrated the crime to protest the behavior of Israeli troops in the territories."]

Columnist Sees Mosad Involvement in Bus Attack

JN1402110090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Feb 90 second edition p 16

["Spotlight" column by Ibrahim al-'Absi: "The Bus Operation and Mosad Fingers"]

[Text] The extent of Zionist anger with SAWT AL-SHA'B for indicating the bus operation is not too far from the fingers of "Mosad" is not the ordinary "Zionist anger" to which we are accustomed. It actually confirms the involvement of that terrorist apparatus in the operation and in carrying it out in detail.

All signs, all evidence associated with the operation, and the investigations conducted by the Egyptian authorities so far indicate the weapons used in the operation were U.S. weapons no Middle East country other than Israel possesses, and there is no evidence of involvement of the 60 suspects detained in Egypt.

We have the right, therefore, to accuse the Israeli intelligence organ, Mosad, of planning and carrying out this operation, especially since the Zionist entity is experiencing several crises: The internal policy crisis, the foreign policy (peace plan) crisis, and the intifadah crisis.

To find a way out of such "crises," the Zionists have been used to carrying out a criminal operation even if the victims are the Jews themselves. What is important to them is to find a way out of the "crisis" and what also is important to them is the aggressive Zionist strategy, and not the lives of people, even if they are Jews.

The Zionists, moreover, are experts on and have precedents in such operations.

Didn't Menahem Begin blow up the ship "Tarina" off the coast of Haifa in 1948 with Jewish immigrants on board?

Didn't the Zionists blow up most of the Zionist synagogues in Europe and the Middle East in the fifties to panic the Jews and force them to emigrate to Palestine?

The bus operation then is not too far from the fingers of Mosad, because by carrying it out, the Zionists want to undermine the peace efforts and justify more massacres and killings of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Time will reveal the details of this Zionist crime.

Hasan Voices Worry Over Soviet Jewish Influx

PM1302155790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Feb 90 pp 1,2

[Report on interview with Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan by Layla Dib on 11 February in Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan has stated the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the attempts to settle them in the occupied Arab territory is the issue of the hour which threatens an explosion in the region at any moment.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Prince Hasan said despite Soviet and U.S. assurances the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants would not go beyond the so-called "red line,"—meaning there would be no settlement in the occupied territory—it is clear the aid being extended to Israel eases its economic crisis and therefore makes it easier for the Tel Aviv government to allocate funds for the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territory.

He called for urgent practical measures by the two superpowers and the UN Security Council members to stop the immigration of Soviet Jews and the attempts to settle them in the occupied territory, warning of the grave consequences of such immigration.

He added: I believe the issue quite simply is many states in the world view the peaceful solution as a whole and see it as the cure to the various issues of conflict, including immigration of Soviet Jews, but these states forget there are certain foundations to such a solution, such as respect for and implementation of the UN resolutions that call for withdrawal from the occupied territory, confirmation of the illegitimacy of settlement there, the convocation of an international conference, and fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

On the Arab delegation which, it has been decided, will be formed to visit the UN Security Council member states in connection with the immigration of Soviet Jews, the Jordanian crown prince said he "hopes there at least will be more consultation, enlightenment and reminders of the basic issues. The world should realize the intifadah, which has been going on for more than two years—the continued killing and destruction of property—is a continuous attempt to contain Arab will. The immigration of Soviet Jews is a new and painful episode in that context, the target being the Palestinian character on Palestinian land."

In his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Prince Hasan said the Arab delegations should convey the entire broad picture and persistently demand the big powers, especially the Security Council members, take full responsibility for implementation and fulfillment of the UN resolutions by convening an international conference and looking for ways of producing tangible results in the current process.

Asked if the intifadah could escalate to become an instrument to prevent Jews from settling in the occupied Arab territories, Prince Hasan said: "If the percentages currently mentioned for settlement of Soviet Jews along areas on the Mediterranean coast—that is, 56 percent in Tel Aviv, 30 percent in Haifa, and three percent in the Negev—are true, then it would mean the settlement areas would be away from the scene of the intifadah. If an inclination emerged later to settle these immigrants in the occupied Arab territory and the Golan Heights, however, then we would find conflict and deportation would become the order of the day."

The Jordanian crown prince said if there was a fair view of the Palestinian demographic problem and its political dimension dating to back to 1948, if nearly 5 million Palestinian Arabs were given justice in their own territory, with a right to their own state and entity and a right to self-determination on Palestinian territory, "there would have been no problem in finding solutions for the settlement of the Soviet Jews in this wide world, which could accept them, particularly for humanitarian reasons."

He pointed out the danger at present lies in the Western media's sympathy with Jewish immigration. That could help persuade the various world parliaments to respond to Israeli requests for funds to finance the immigration to the tune of $1.5 billion.

He said the number of Palestinian workers in the West Bank and Gaza was 152,000 in 1976, rising only to 153,000 in 1985—"meaning no to new employment of Arabs on their own territory in their own homeland, and acceptance of the settlement, employment, and rehabilitation of these large numbers of Soviet immigrants to replace the Palestinians."

On ways of persuading the West to pressure Israel to prevent settlement in the occupied Arab territory, Prince Hasan said: The question of the legitimacy of settlement in the occupied Arab territory is a legal matter that should be raised anew, to press the conviction settlement is totally rejected and illegitimate. The truth is, many countries in the world and the Security Council are cool on this issue.

He added: "I had hoped that, 20 years after Resolution No. 242 was issued, the following question would be addressed to the Security Council: What about implementation of that resolution, including the part about the impermissibility of settlement in the occupied territory?"

He said that, because of the link between politics and economics, Western aid to the Soviet Union commits it to permitting the emigration of more Soviet Jews.

He added that in 1974 an agreement was signed between U.S. Senators Henry Jackson and Charles Vanik [as published] to the effect the U.S. Congress would make a commitment that economic aid to the Eastern bloc, and the Soviet Union mainly would be conditional on them permitting all kinds of emigration, especially the emigration of Soviet Jews.

Japanese Official Arrives on Three-Day Visit

Comments on Immigration

JN0902131890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Hisashi Wada, Japanese deputy foreign minister, arrived in Amman today on a three-day visit to Jordan, during which he will conduct talks with senior officials on bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East.

In an arrival statement, the Japanese official expressed his country's concern about settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories and the negative effect of this on peace in the Middle East.

The Japanese official said: This is my first visit to Jordan, which plays a major role in this region.

The visit to Jordan by Wada is apart of a tour that so far has taken him to Cairo and Riyadh.

Meets With King Husayn

JN1002171990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Hisashi Wada, Japanese deputy foreign minister for political affairs, who conveyed to his majesty a message from the Japanese Government expressing greetings and the great appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and the positive role he plays in issues of peace, particularly in the Middle East. The message praised his majesty's constructive stances, and stressed Japan is proud of Jordanian-Japanese friendship, represented by his majesty.

Hisashi Wada conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn Japan's new directions in light of the international developments and Japan's continued support for Jordan and all the efforts exerted to bring about stability and peace in the Middle East and achieve solutions to all outstanding conflicts through peaceful means.

His majesty told the Japanese official he takes pride in the friendship with Japan and its constant support to Jordan and the Arab causes, as well as to Jordan's efforts to achieve a just peace and real and comprehensive stability.

The chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the Japanese ambassador in Amman attended.

Meets With Al-Qasim

JN1002123490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Hisashi Wada, Japanese deputy foreign minister, reviewed today the most important developments in the region, particularly the Jewish immigration to Palestine, and Japan's position on these developments.

Al-Qasim highlighted the dangers to Palestinian rights and to stability throughout the region arising from the influx of Jewish immigrants from the USSR and East Europe. Al-Qasim underlined the responsibility of the countries concerned, particularly the major powers and countries that have special responsibilities for the peace process, because the immigration constitutes a threat to peace efforts.

Al-Qasim added the Israeli prime minister's objective is to gain time and create new basic conditions at a time when the PLO has met the conditions for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. Al-Qasim told the Japanese visitor Jordan has shouldered its responsibilities toward the kinfolk and their cause. He added Jordan supports the positive policies of the Palestinian leadership.

Wada reiterated Japan's position of opposing settling Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territory and calling on Israel to abide by the principle of land for peace and to conduct a dialogue with the PLO. This is in addition to the need for continued international pressure, particularly on the part of the influential parties, to make Israel respond to the requirements of a just peace.

Badran, Information Minister on Jewish Emigration

JN1002164190 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 10 Feb (PETRA)—Prime Minister Mudar Badran has described the immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories as an anti-peace operation that will not help implement Security Council Resolution No. 242. This operation has nothing to do with human rights, he said.

Speaking to reporters during a break in the House of Representatives' session this afternoon, Badran said Jordan had asked the Soviet Union to postpone immigration, especially to the Arab territories occupied in 1967, until after the Palestine question has been resolved. This, we thought, was necessary because any immigration to those territories practically will mean undermining future peace opportunities, he added.

Answering a question, Badran said we support any Arab moves regarding this, whether toward the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries or the United States, to explain the danger of immigration to the peace process. Those who want peace, he said, will not place obstacles in its way.

Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din meanwhile has stressed the importance of the prime minister's proposal on the need to suspend immigration until a just solution has been found.

He said the Arabs would welcome any international moves that would reduce immigration.

He expressed hope the Security Council, which later will discuss the issue, will be able to reduce the perils of this immigration.

'Izz al-Din in similar statements to reporters today said the United States is pushing forward the immigration of Jews. He noted the statements of U.S. officials are not lacking in support for this immigration.

He said the Soviet Union, for its part, responds to this U.S. inclination. The issue is an old one, and the United States for many years has been pressing for this immigration and putting strict conditions on the Soviet Union, 'Izz al-Din said. The Soviet Union now is meeting these conditions because of known factors.

The information minister said the Arabs should act on two axes: The first deals with the Soviet Union, and here we must explain to the Soviets that the issue of human rights is not confined to the Soviet Jews, but also concerns the rights of the Palestinian people, who are being subjected to flagrant attacks, especially with Soviet Jews coming to replace Palestinians in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

The second, basic, and serious axis, the minister said, involves the United States, which has pressed and still is pressing the Soviet Union to continue the emigration. Of course, added the minister, we now can ask the United States to declare the Jewish settlements and colonies in the West Bank are illegal and should not, therefore, be financed by U.S. money. We also can propose other issues and hope to do this soon, he added.

Paper Mulls Israeli 'Infiltration' of E. Europe

JN1002131490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Feb 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "An Arab Front ... Now"]

[Text] Recent developments, exemplified by Israeli infiltration of the East European front, require our Arab governments start discussing these developments soon at the highest level to deal with them, now that efforts to prevent them have failed.

Czechoslovakia and Israel yesterday resumed diplomatic relations, which were severed in the wake of the 1967 Israeli aggression.

A few weeks from now, Poland will resume its ties with Israel. The path now is being paved for restoring Israel's ties with East Germany. As for Poland [as published], it resumed ties with Israel last September.

It is more than a new era of warmth, as the new Czechoslovak president put it. It is our opinion restoring ties without any change in the causes that led to their severance is no more than a shirking of moral obligations by the eastern friends—obligations to oppose aggression and occupation—and constitutes an unwarranted reward to the aggressors.

The argument that resumption of relations will play a role in the Middle East peace process does not hold water, because the peace process has not yet started, and because this will end the isolation of the aggressors who are killing the unarmed Palestinian people, who seek freedom and independence.

What now must be emphasized is that the Israeli leadership should be isolated, pressured, and punished—economically and diplomatically—to force it to comply with the requirements of the age and the facts of life,

which Gorbachev phrased as "dialogue instead of confrontation." The Israeli leadership should be forced to submit to the call for a just peace, which it derides with its policy of force and arrogance.

The economic dimension in this series of decisions easily can be felt, as can the American influence and economic assistance. We will maintain our belief, however, that morals and principles come before interests and pressures. This applies to real life and politics.

The circle now almost is complete as friendly East Germany expresses its readiness to extend material assistance to those of Jewish origin who were oppressed during the Nazi era, as the East German president put it.

West German compensation to Israel in the fifties, estimated in billions, was instrumental in enabling the aggressive Zionist authorities to militarize their society and enhance the power and arrogance of the Zionist war machine, providing resources to launch the June 1967 aggression and occupy the remainder of Palestine and other Arab territories in Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon.

East German preparations to offer fresh material compensation to the Zionist occupation authorities coincides with the influx of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine, thus greatly harming the brave intifadah and undermining the Palestinian Arab cause. This compensation will provide the material resources for absorbing these emigrants and for a new aggression against the Arab nation.

The collapse of the East European front, which benefits the Zionist enemy, will have destructive effects on the interests and future of this nation, which are being betrayed by the traditional supporters of Arab rights and justice.

There is no doubt the new international realities require this nation mobilize its resources and power to bring the artificial differences among its states to a rapid end. It should not hesitate to do this under any pretext and must begin building a united Arab front that can deal with the serious developments overwhelming us.

Israeli Threat Requires Arab Responsibility

JN1402094090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Feb 90 second edition pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Another Stage in Confronting Shamirism"]

[Text] No one will deny Yitzhaq Shamir now is leading Likud extremism following Sharon's theatrical resignation, and that the way has been paved for Shamir to realize his expansionist, hostile intentions under the cover of his plan to conduct false elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Shamir perhaps is the last person in Israel to think about peace, and the Arab Republic of Egypt knows this fact well, because to its contacts with the Israelis.

When the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM, one of the leading newspapers in the Arab world, announces Israel is preparing to commit a military aggression against Jordan and urges the Arabs to support Jordan in confronting these aggressive provocations, this means the newspaper AL-AHRAM means what it says and has good reason for it.

We say this to remind the Arab brothers. We too have been aware for a long time that Israel considers Jordan the key to the central Arab issue, the Palestine question, and that Jordan is the alternative homeland for the Palestinians.

We want the Arab brothers to realize Jordan's position in the face of the dangers of the expected aggression and to behave according to their pan-Arab sense of responsibility, so no other country will be exposed to a similar danger in the near future.

Yes, we admit the existence of aggressive plans, but we will not be easy prey for the frantic Israeli aggression. We have nothing except this Arab homeland, for which we will sacrifice ourselves and our souls, because our life depends on our steadfastness and on the sacrifices we have offered and will continue to offer voluntarily for the sake of the Palestine question and in defense of this homeland.

We say this to tell the Arabs and the world we are not the required solution to the Palestine question. We will fight fiercely if the issue is to be settled at the expense of the survival of these men.

Yes, we will not be sheep if we are attacked, but lions. If we are forced either to fight or surrender to humiliation, we will fight until the last drop of our blood.

Cultural, Scientific Accord Signed With Cyprus

JN1302214790 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Jordan and Cyprus signed an agreement for cultural and scientific cooperation in Amman today. The agreement provides for cooperation in scientific research, education, culture, information, tourism, antiquities, sports, and youth.

The agreement was signed for the Jordanian Government by the secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, Dr. Safwan Tuqan, and for the Cypriot Government by the under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Angelos Angelidhis.

Clashes Reported Along East Beirut Lines

NC1302174890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Statement by the 5th branch of the Lebanese Forces Staff Command issued on 13 February]

[Text] At 1700 today, unusual movements and troop concentrations took place in areas controlled by 'Awn's clique, particularly in Sinn al-Fil and near the Mar Taqla church in al-Bawshariyah. Clashes involving medium-caliber weapons and rockets took place on the Hotel Dieu-museum and the Chevrolet-'Ayn al-Rummanah lines. These clashes of varying intensity are continuing.

Four Israeli Soldiers Killed 13 Feb

NC1302161390 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The national resistance issued a statement today saying that one of its groups clashed with a joint patrol of the occupation forces and agent Lahd's men in the al-Qantarah-al-Kufayr area killing four Israeli soldiers and damaging one vehicle. The statement adds that the occupation forces brought in reinforcements and equipment under cover of heavy artillery fire. Agent Lahd's radio confirmed the clash but spoke of no losses.

DFLP Attacks Israeli Patrol 14 Feb

NC1402122790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has issued a military communique in which it said: As a DFLP group of fighters was heading toward the occupied area to carry out a combat mission, it clashed with an Israeli mechanized patrol backed by an infantry force on the al-Qulay'ah-Marj 'Uyun road this morning. The group opened machinegun and rocket fire and hurled hand grenades at the patrol, inflicting serious losses of life and equipment.

In a second communique, the DFLP said that the Israeli enemy sent military reinforcements to the scence of clashes under concentrated artillery bombardment from its artillery emplacements in al-Zaffati in a desparate attempt to rescue its patrol. However, the battle is still raging between the DFLP fighters and enemy forces.

Kasrawan Front Positions Reinforced

NC1402104390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Tension continues to prevail in the eastern area. Intermittent clashes involving automatic weapons and rockets are taking place between the 'Awn and Ja'ja' cliques on the 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-'Adliyah, and Furn al-Shubbak combat lines. Meanwhile, both sides are dispatching military reinforcements to the Kasrawan front.

PSP Reportedly Reinforces Military Positions

NC1202061090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] According to news agencies, the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has reinforced its military positions along the Kafr Shima front with 500 extra troops and a number of tanks. The PSP earlier did the same thing along the Suq al-Gharb front.

'Awn Calls on Reservists To Join Barracks

NC1302063090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn, commnder of the military cliques, has called the reservists to join the al-Fayyadiyah barracks. They will later be distributed along the fronts to fill shortages and replace those killed or captured, the deserters, or those who declared their neutrality or secession for various reasons. This decision is being implemented, and 'Awn is using force to compel people to join his barracks.

Plans Deployment

NC1302125790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] According to sources in East Beirut, the purpose of General 'Awn's call-up of the reservists and army partisans is not to have them take part in the current war, but to deploy them along the Kafr Shima and Suq al-Gharb fronts, in order to keep up appearances and to cover up the positions and the secret agreements and contacts.

'Awn Vows To Prevent Creation of 'Gestapo State'

NC1302183090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn [words indistinct] threatened to do worse. Speaking at a news conference today, 'Awn said that what he had done militarily was the least he could do. We are ready to do more than that, for we have more potential. However, we think like surgeons, and we will give dialogue a chance to establish a model state, 'Awn said.

Lashing out at the Lebanese Forces' gangs and their leader, 'Awn addressed Ja'ja', saying: Your victory is surrender, and your defeat is also surrender. You have to face the facts, or things will get worse.

'Awn described Ja'ja' supporters as a motley group of drug addicts and murderers, and he asserted that he intends to keep fighting. He said: We will not allow the Ja'ja' forces to control Kasrawan, Jubayl, Juniyah, al-Ashrafiyah, al-Dikwanah, 'Ayn al-al-Rummanah, or al-Dawrah. We will not allow a gestapo state [dawlat al-jistabu] to emerge. Maybe Ja'ja' groups were able to stab us in the back and cause us to lose some of our forces, but we will not let them control thousands of our people and spread terror and narcotics among our people.

We have absorbed the first strike, and we will not allow the gestapo state to be established, 'Awn said. We will not allow the areas under the Lebanese Forces' control to remain hostage to blackmail and robbery.

'Awn disclosed that he discussed with the Ja'ja' command the possibility of giving the Lebanese Forces the chance to legitimately participate in an expanded government. However, the decision to abolish them came from abroad [as heard] and was meant to harm the Army, not the Lebanese Forces, as the latter's command claims.

Warns of Offensive

NC1402080090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] At a press conference yesterday, General Michel 'Awn affirmed that there will be no return to the Nazi [words indistinct]. He lashed out at Samir Ja'ja's militia and asked: How can they claim to be defending freedoms when they are taking people hostage and killing soldiers after torturing them? He added that several months ago, before the [liberation] war was launched, he had discussed ways to incorporate the Lebanese Forces within the state's institutions with politicians in the eastern area. He noted that his army does not want to abolish the Lebanese Forces. He said there was an opportunity to rectify the situation and so overcome the crisis and called on the Lebanese Forces to join forces with the army.

'Awn called on Ja'ja' to adopt a clear-cut stand on all matters. He noted that officer Paul Faris, who established the army neutral command, is a [word indistinct] officer and is only [word indistinct] and nobody is with him. He said that Faris had earlier threatened to infiltrate the eastern areas.

Gen 'Awn said he is ready to launch a large-scale offensive against the Lebanese Forces in Kasrawan, after he had called on the reservists and all people trained to carry arms to join the army immediately. Gen 'Awn was also quoted as having said that total commitment is necessary. It could cost 1,500 lives to free all territory from the militias, but we are prepared to pay that price, he added.

Al-Hirawi Notes Army's Ability To End 'Rebellion'

NC1302191890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] [Passage indistinct] President al-Hirawi said that the Army is capable of ending the tragic situation and the rebellion against the legitimate authorities. He said they could stop the bloodshed and stop destroying cities and villages for personal and selfish interests.

Al-Hirawi said that the legitimate state army has deployed its forces in positions where it can decide matters in favor of the legitimate government, and Washington, Paris, and the Vatican support this stand. Al-Hirawi mentioned that certain forces in the French capital define their position toward Lebanon with an eye on the ballot box in their country. The position of President Mitterrand and his government is excellent, but some individuals are taking very negative stands, al-Hirawi said.

Al-Hirawi said that the U.S. stand is identical to the legitimate gpvernment's stand. He also praised Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt's position supporting the legitimacy and the country's unity.

Defense Minister: Army Ready To End 'Tragedy'

NC1302122190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1148 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] We have just received a statement by Defense Minister Albert Mansur. In it, Minister Mansur affirmed that the Lebanese Army is awaiting instructions from the political command to perform its duty in restoring Lebanon's unity and salvaging the citizens who are besieged in the eastern area. The defense minister reiterated that the legitimate authority is marshalling all its resources to put an end to the tragedy in the eastern area out of its conviction that the salvation of this and other areas rests in consolidating the legitimate authority and in returning the supremacy of law to all of Lebanon.

During his meeting with a women's delegation today, Minister Mansur stressed that the Lebanese Army will be prepared to carry out its role and duty when it is asked to do so by the political command to restore Lebanon's unity and salvage the citizens from the illegitimate hegemony and tragedies of arms. He underlined the humanitarian role played by women and expressed his readiness to offer any assistance in this regard. He emphasized the need for concerting all official and popular efforts and capabilities for the sake of giving the necessary aid to the victims of the destructive war in the eastern areas and also for the sake of ending this war.

'Awn Media Report Insubordination in LF

NC1302170890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn's media have accused the Lebanese Forces [LF] of continuing to disrupt the security situation and bombarding residential neighborhoods and al-Yarzah army positions in Hursh Thabit, al-Dawrah, and the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah. The media added that a clash occurred between Ja'ja' gunmen inside the al-Dawrah area last night because some personnel resisted their command's orders.

AL-SAFIR Notes Al-Yarzah-Lahhud Contacts

NC1302213690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] AL-SAFIR today uncovered contacts made between al-Yarzah ['Awn headquarters] and General Emile Lahhud's command. The paper said: Brigadier General 'Adil Shihab, chief of army intelligence, telephoned a high-ranking official in the Lebanese Army command in Beirut. During the

telephone conversation, the official told Shihab that the al-Yarzah command was ready to hand over some of its positions along the combat lines.

The paper added: It has been learned that the telephone contact took place two days after battles broke out in East Beirut. A source close to [former Lebanese Forces Commander] Elie Hubayqah has reportedly visited al-Yarzah and met with General 'Awn.

Sarba Barracks Join Army Neutral Command

NC1302114890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1110 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The Command of the Sarba Barracks [in Juniyah] has issued the following statement: We the command of the Sarba Barracks—officers, noncommission officers, and soldiers—declare that we have joined the neutral army forces under the command of Staff Colonel Paul Faris. We denounce the internecine fighting in the free areas. We also urge all the comrades in arms in all army units to immediately stop fighting and join our ranks.

Neutral Forces Supports 'Legitimate Government'

NC1402060490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Paul Faris, the commander of the so-called neutral forces, has declared that he supports the legitimate government. He said he has adopted a neutral stand in the internal struggle until things become clear. He noted that so many troops have joined him that he is unable to find a place for all of them.

Faris repeated his call for the army troops to join his forces and stop playing 'Awn's game, because there has been enough fighting.

Gunmen Assassinate Nasirite Officer in Sidon

NC1402094090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Muhiy-al-Din Shams-al-Din, an officer in the Nasirite Popular Organization's police, was assassinated by unknown gunmen in Sidon this morning. His companion Walid al-Qadi was seriously injured. According to security sources, Shams-al-Din ran into an ambush near a police roadblock in the al-Furn al-Gharbi quarter, east of Sidon. Policemen cordoned off the area and its vicinity.

Lebanese Forces Set Up 'Operations Room'

NC1102194890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] In view of the current extraordinary conditions, the Lebanese Forces set up an operations room today. The purpose of the operations room is to receive and examine complaints and adopt all appropriate measures to help the citizens and stop any acts of aggression against them.

The operations room began its work immediately. It deployed security patrols in the al-Dawrah, al-Nab'ah, Sinn al-Fil, al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and Furn al-Shubbak areas to suppress any violations.

Citizens who have any complaints or want any help are kindly requested to report to the Phalangist Party headquarters in al-Ashrafiyah or the military policy center in Beirut, or contact the operations room, which is located in the al-Ashrafiyah area, on telephone numbers 219586, 219587, 217999, or 321399.

Lebanese Forces Reportedly Kidnap Businessman

NC1002155690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn's media have reported that the Lebanese Forces have kidnapped businessman Roger Iddih, who is close to Michel 'Awn, and have seized the offices of the newspaper LISAN AL-HAL In Jubayl.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Forces media have reported that 'Awn's group has detained three workers in al-Mashriq [the Orient] Television near the Museum.

Al-Husayni Seeks Arab Summit To Resolve Conflict

NC0802144390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss discussed military developments in the eastern area today.

In another development, Speaker al-Husayni appealed to Arab leaders to convene an Arab summit to help Lebanon proceed toward reconciliation and to rebuild the country and establish peace in it.

In an interview with the QATARI NEWS AGENCY [QNA] today, Speaker al-Husayni expressed his hope that the anomalous situation in the eastern part of the capital will end as soon as possible. He denied any knowledge that President al-Hirawi has sent an envoy to East Beirut to meet with Maronite Patriarch Butrus Sfayr and Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'. However, al-Husayni, said: It is natural under the present circumstances that President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Dr al-Huss establish such contacts to put an end to what is happening in East Beirut.

Regarding Israel's role in the present events in eastern Beirut, Speaker al-Husayni said: Tel Aviv has instigated sedition and intrigues, proving that it is basically interested in the destruction of Lebanon's cultural, economic, and social structure.

Envoy on Nonintervention, French Nationals

NC1202193990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Contrary to Lebanese press reports, a source close to the French Embassy has emphasized that Paris will not interfere in the battles between the Lebanese Forces and units under 'Awn. French Consul General Jean Mark Simon stated that presently, France rules out organizing any operation to evacuate more than 4,500 French nationals residing in the eastern area.

'Awn Rejects French Proposal on Observer Team

NC1402123290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] QNA today cites French diplomatic sources as saying that Paris is currently seeking to achieve an agreement between 'Awn and Dr Ja'ja' through contacts it is holding with both under the auspices of the Vatican. The sources said that France proposed sending a military observer team to Beirut to separate the two sides, but this was categorically rejected by 'Awn.

France's Kouchner Departs, Promises Medical Aid

NC1002191590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Bernard Kouchner, French minister of state for humanitarian affairs, left Beirut for Paris aboard a special plane at 1600 today. Dr Kamil Muhanna, chairman of the government mission for transporting the injured abroad, and several other officials saw him off at the airport.

Minister Kouchner promised to send a medical mission soon to treat those injured in the war. Those patients who cannot be treated in Lebanon will be taken to France, he said. [passage omitted]

LF Criticize Kouchner

NC1302091890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] In a statement yesterday, the Lebanese Forces stressed that Bernard Kouchner, French minister of state for humanitarian affairs, helped General 'Awn continue his war instead of concentrating on stopping the battles. The statement said that during his visit to Lebanon Kouchner did not meet with Dr. Samir Ja'ja', adding that Kouchner made himself a propaganda tool in the hands of Gen 'Awn, thus adding fuel to the fire.

Papal Nuncio, French Envoy Charged With Conspiracy

NC1002190290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, has said what is going on in the eastern area proves that all partitionist schemes have failed.

He accused the papal nuncio and the French envoy of conspiring against Lebanon's unity because they are trying to resolve the problem of the eastern area by perpetuating partition outside the framework of legitimacy.

Algerian Minister: Syrian Intervention Possible

NC1202061990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The Algerian foreign minister has not ruled out the possibility of Syrian military intervention to expel General 'Awn from the B'abda presidential palace. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', the Algerian minister said that any sovereign state has the right to use force against a rebellion. He stressed that the al-Ta'if agreement is the road for achieving the national accord. He noted that this agreement enables the legitimate government in Lebanon to resort to all means to establish its authority.

In his statement, the Algerian minister maintained that the Syrian forces alone are capable of helping Lebanon consolidate legitimacy. He went on to say that the Syrians have affirmed their readiness to withdraw their troops within a period of two years provided there is an estabished legitimate government in Lebanon.

Palestine Broadcast Condemns Israeli 'Crimes'

JN1402072890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers: Just because the name of the Palestinian town of Rafah was mentioned in one way or another within the context of the Israeli bus incident in Ismailia, this valiant Palestinian town was made to suffer brutal Israeli torture and cruelty. Thus, the town of Rafah, along with its inhabitants, houses, schools, and utilities, became a target for that Nazi practice known as mass punishment. In fact, it is a Zionist practice and not merely a Nazi one. It is unfair to single out Nazism with the shame of that punishment as long Zionism has, since the collapse of Nazism, been using all its skills to develop mass punishment against the Palestinian Arab people.

The Israeli sources' description of the Israeli occupation crimes in the Palestinian town of Rafah is sufficient in itself to condemn Israel and pass judgment on it. The bullets, which Israel politely calls rubber or plastic bullets, are being fired at the Palestinian Arab citizens of Rafah from the mouths of rifles and machine guns. The poisonous gas bombs, which Israel also politely calls tear gas bombs, are not hurled by the Israeli occupation soldiers while they are standing on the ground, but they strafe the demonstrators with them from helicopters flying in the skies of the Palestinian town of Rafah. Let us not forget, of course, the new stone-throwing cannon which Israel is also shamelessly talking about developing so as to hurl more stones than the bullets fired by a machinegun.

At any rate, if there is in this enough to condemn Israel and brand it as a criminal of war and of mass punishments, there is also in it what does not honor the Israeli occupation soldiers as soldiers. It is acceptable for the police to confront demonstrators everywhere on the ground and to hurl tear gas bombs—only tear gas bombs and not poisonous gas bombs—with their hands. It is acceptable that the police do this while confronting demonstrators face to face on the ground. But to drop these bombs from the sky and from helicopters indicates weakness and exhaustion on the part of the Israeli occupation soldiers as they seek safety in the sky away from Arab demonstrators on the ground. We have this to say about the Israeli stone-throwing cannon; Israel can take pride in what it imagines to be Israeli technology that produced this stone-throwing cannon, but Israel cannot take pride in the Israeli soldier that operates this cannon from an armored vehicle which is at least 75 meters away from Palestinian Arab demonstrators who do not care about Israel's machine guns. How then would they care about its stone-throwing cannon?

We are aware that Zionism, which is, in essence, a devastation of honorable behavior, does not seek honor and dignity in any field of confrontation. Hence, Israel does not believe it is odd for its soldiers to fortify themselves in vehicles while confronting the valiant Palestinian masses that are resisting out in the open. Neither does it consider it odd for its soldiers to avoid and stay away from the Palestinian masses by taking to the air and strafing the Palestinian strugglers on the ground with poisonous gas bombs.

Israel is only interested in committing crimes. Here, too, Israel should wake up from this silly delusion. Rafah and before it Bayt Sahur were targets of the Israeli crime, but these two towns' defiance of this crime was great. Yes, action is always in the hands of the Palestinian Arab people and not in Israel's hand. The proof is that although Palestinian martyrs fell in Rafah, the people there rushed more and more, not into houses for safety, but toward the Israeli occupation soldiers, toward them, seeking martyrdom and freedom.

Damascus Radio Urges Arabs To Use 'Potential'

JN1002153190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Gentlemen: The threats that hang over our Arab nation and peoples are a corollary of a world swayed by interests and ambitions rather than principles and values. [passage omitted]

Throughout the history of the struggle of our Arab nation with its enemies, there have been undeniably bright spots. There have been epics written with the blood of immortals, who have shown themselves to be paradigms of martyrdom. Throughout our struggle with our swaggering and strutting enemy, there have also been occasions of which we can be justifiably proud. However, rather than capitalize on them in the interest of a greater and more decisive achievement, we became complacent or we sat on our laurels. Either way, we seem to have grown slacker. Those who once surreptitiously supported our enemy are now bragging about it. Those who once hesitated to begrudge us our rights obtained ammunition from our inaction. Those who once took pains to give expression to their support for the justice of our cause have found in our slumber a pretext to absolve thmeselves of continued backing. It goes without saying that the struggle is far from over, and that our people are still capable of sacrifice and action and that our nation is resolved to take on its enemies. It is equally certain that the requirements for our victory are there.

Ours is an existential struggle, and we happen to have a just cause and limitless capabilities. It is a serious approach and effective action in times of need that we are lacking. We are most troubled by minor distractions that skew our vision, consume our energy, and undermine our unity and resolve. Inevitably, these distractions must be blamed on our enemy. Since our enemy is the sole benefactor from these ills, it is the only source of these germs. All Arab resources must, therefore, be mobilized, and the diversionary irritants be done away with. All Arab governments and peoples must rise to the challenge. We have on our hands a merciless enemy

whose instruments are still busy putting its conspiracies to work. Let us stop dilly dallying and face these instruments head on—our entire Arab nation, our future, and sacred cause being in the balance. These instruments are diverting our attention from making provisions for a momentous threat.

To quote His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, when an individual or nation is under some kind of threat, they muster all their inner strength to defend themselves. As the Arab nation faces an imminent danger, it must call forth all the resources at its disposal, and there is no lack of these, as President al-Asad rightly pointed out. The point is whether we will sense the danger and make the necessary provisions and resolve to act and make good use of our potential.

Communist Party Leaders Comment in Interviews

Faction Head on Perestroyka

JN1202183290 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 11 Feb 90 p 20

[By Ghazai al-Jasim]

[Excerpts] Damascus—The Syrian Communist Party [SCP] has been buffeted by more than than one split. The interview conducted with Yusuf Faysal is a unique one, since he held the office of assistant secretary general before the last split, after which he formed a breakaway faction, along with a large group of the party congress and political bureau. [passage omitted]

On Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, Yusuf Faysal says:

Within the framework of a policy of openness and democratization and human rights, the Soviet Union has liberalized travel restrictions. The Zionist movement was quick to capitalize on the new Soviet policies in the interest of opening the floodgates of immigration to Israel. By barring Soviet Jews from the United States, the aim was obviously to make them head for Israel. When Hitler set about oppressing German and European Jews in the thirties, the United States denied them access so they would make for Palestine. It behooves the Arabs to act on official and popular levels. They should not denigrate the Soviet Union, a faithful friend of the Arabs that has stood by them over the past 40 years. Rather, we should approach the Soviet Union in a friendly and responsible fashion. The USSR is as concerned with maintaining friendly ties with the Arabs as it is with other nations.

If perestroyka has swept the world with each party taking whatever inspiration appropriate to it, we have our own program of revitalizing the party organizationally and ideologically. We are streamlining it to better handle its social, national, pan-Arab, and global responsibilities by adopting democratic practices within party ranks, raising the ideological and political levels of members and boosting their militant spirit, abandoning our condescending attitude toward other parties and the claim that we have a monopoly of truth, and pursuing sober argument against dissenting views. We must then work to achieve a merger of the broadest spectrum of democratic and progressive forces so as to serve the social and national duties ahead of us in terms of social progress and prosperity.

Yusuf Faysal adds that the party seeks to rethink its past policies, especially regarding the underlying bases of past alliances with a view to rebuilding them on more comprehensive, ideological, and class foundations. We must also reconsider our planks on Arab unity and look into the best approach down that path.

On domestic issues, Yusuf Faysal said: We are allied with the ruling Arab Socialist Ba'th Party not only on foreign policy, but on all social issues. As long as there are social, peasant and worker organizations affiliated with the Ba'th Party, the interests of the broad masses are unlikely to be overlooked. We only criticize negative points—and these are legion—but not from a posture of "antagonism."

On the whole, there have been many negatives in all sectors of the country's life. The general standard of living has been falling steadily. The special [government] organs have also been tightening their grip. The masses, intellectuals, and politicians are suffering from negative practices. We belive it is high time things were put right and the internal balance redressed. We do not want the reactionary forces to cash in on the present conditions. We want reform to come without delay by the regime itself setting up a party system based on pluralism and allowing public freedoms. We want an improvement in the material situation of the masses, which are suffering from straitened circumstances, with standards of living falling sharply. We shall take up the cause of the people whatever the sacrifice and cost.

Secretary General on Reforms

JN1102173790 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 9 Feb 90 p 21

[Report on interview with Khalid Bakdash, secretary general of the Syrian Communist Party, by Ghazi al-Jasim in Damascus—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Regarding perestroyka's effect on communist parties in nonsocialist states, Khalid Bakdash said: Those parties do not fall within the framework of perestroyka, which is true of the majority of them. We, for example, will not change our party's name. We affirm our commitment to Marxism-Leninism and we will not abandon the centralized democracy in our organization. In our policies, we will continue to reconcile true patriotism and true internationalism. We will also strengthen our relations with the CPSU, the glorious party of Lenin. [passage omitted]

Regarding the impact of perestroyka on Syria, Bakdash said: Regrettably, we say there is great hunger in this country. When many people have only thyme without oil to eat, this means there are thousands on the brink of famine. We said this during the meetings of the National Progressive Front [NPF] and in the presence of President al-Asad, who has said there is poverty in Syria but not hunger.

Bakdash went on to say: I have said that there are more than 10,000 millionaires in Syria under socialism while there were no more than 200 during the capitalist era. We consider ourselves in alliance with the regime's nationalist policy against Israel and imperialism. However, we have a totally different position regarding its domestic policies, because unsatisfactory practices exist that we oppose. We, for example, call for expanding the democratic base of the parties affiliated with the NPF—nationalist parties that are not against the regime. This means that martial law must be lifted and the supremacy of law respected in every area. It also means that each of the parties affiliated with the NPF must be officially recognized and allowed to conduct its activities, and that measures directed against any NPF member for political reasons must be stopped. They have arrested a member of our party for praising an Arab head of state. We told them that he had not done so, but he is still in jail.

He added: We want to reform the political system from within, not from a hostile position. We are worried about developments that could bring about unexpected events. We do not want reactionary forces to benefit from discontent, and all members of the NPF must support reforms. The Syrian worker is not paid more than 1,500 Syrian pounds, while a kilogram of meat costs 200 pounds and a chicken costs 100 pounds. Syrian citizens complain about the high cost of living and low wages. This may create pressures that, we are afraid, may be employed by reactionary forces. We are stating our position frankly as allies, not enemies.

Bakdash adds: We have said on more than one occasion that we support Arab solidarity and the strengthening of ties of friendship, cooperation, and understanding among various Arab states. We have extended our hands to Morocco and Cairo, which have relations with Israel, so why do we not extend our hands to our historic neighbor, Iraq? Although both ruling parties have differences, this should not prevent them from meeting and understanding each other as two states. Without true Arab solidarity, it will be hard to confront Israel or imperialism.

Regarding Soviet Jewish immigration, Bakdash said: Zionism is a dangerous international movement. It is like an octopus. In alliance with the United States, it wants to replace the Palestinian people with Soviet Jews. Arab states have two duties to fulfill: First, to support the great intifadah in the occupied territories and, second, to pressure Washington to allow the Jews to emigrate to the United States and Europe and not to Israel. The lack of a clear Arab position against Israel and the United States, and criticism of the Soviet Union will not help us. Progressive forces in Syria have held meetings and discussed forming a delegation to hold a dialogue with the Soviets. Arabs must build solidarity among themselves quickly to face the grave challenges. [passage omitted]

Correction to Emigration Called 'Crime'

WA1302181490

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Emigration Called 'Crime'," published in the 8 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 42: Column one, fourth paragraph, second sentence, make read: Accordingly, we do not object to the.... (supplying missing word "not")

Afghanistan

Soviet Muslims Urged To 'Reach for Freedom'

BK1402090290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 14 Feb 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 14 (AFP)—Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, one of the rebel mujahidin's main field commanders in Afghanistan, renewed a call Wednesday to Muslims in the Soviet Union to break from Moscow.

The call for "subjugated" Muslims in Soviet Central Asia to "reach for freedom" came in a statement received here Wednesday from northwest Afghanistan to coincide with the first anniversary on February 15 of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The statement was issued before a state of emergency was declared Monday in Dushanbe, the capital of the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tadzhikistan which borders Afghanistan, where at least 37 people have been killed in anti-Armenian clashes.

He did not rule out the possibility of unifying Islamic Soviet states with Afghanistan, saying this would "depend on the future circumstances."

The Soviet Muslim-majority states of Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan all border Afghanistan and share a similar ethnic and cultural background.

Cmdr. Mas'ud, an ethnic Tadzhik whose influence extends through several Afghan provinces along the Soviet border, first launched his appeal last month in a similar statement issued in Farsi. Convinced the mujahidin would eventually gain power in Kabul, Cmdr. Mas'ud said the "relations of the future Afghan government with the Soviets will depend on the rationality of the Russians themselves."

"If the Russians, as soon as possible, leave their support of their puppet regime, end more bloodshed and forget their colonial goals, perhaps the relations between the two countries can become better sooner," he said. But while their support for President Najibullah's government continued "the bitter" memory of their invasion in December 1979 "will remain in the mind of the Afghan people," he warned.

"The people of Afghanistan have fought in order to establish an Islamic republic, hence today and tomorrow Islam will have a pivotal role in Afghanistan," he said. "We want the establishment of an Islamic Afghan government, in which all the Afghan nationalities will actively participate so in such a government there will not be the question of one nationality ruling over another," he added.

On the current situation he said President Najibullah had failed in his national reconciliation policy and December's coup attempt had shown "clearly" that the president "has failed in bringing unity amongst Parcham and Khalq," the two factions of his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA.)

"The regime has not been able to launch offensive operations but only to sit in a defensive position," he said, but conceded that the strength of the regime in Kabul lay in the mujahidin's "disunity."

But Cmdr. Mas'ud, who heads the northern council, a politico-military body affiliated to the Jamiat-e Eslami party, one of seven Sunni Muslim groups in the Pakistan-based resistance, added that if the mujahidin could overcome their internal differences the regime would fall. The northern council, he said, was ready militarily and would accept "a considerable part of the war or take responsibility of launching the war if an atmosphere of understanding is created" among the rebel factions.

He added that his group was ready to negotiate with his main rival Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, fundamentalist head of the Hezb-e Eslami, to "solve our problems." The two groups have clashed in the past year leaving casualties on both sides.

On a possible future role in Afghanistan for exiled King Zaher Shah, Cmdr. Mas'ud said the monarch, who was deposed in 1973, had been away too long. "He has no presence in the war. He has no knowledge of the current situation. He is not familiar with the new generation arising from the war," he said, adding, "he is a very old man and his age will not permit him to be effective and active", therefore he had "no active role to play."

"To prevent bloodshed amongst Afghans, the mujahidin have declared an amnesty," he said. "Except for a limited number of PDPA members, all others can join the Afghan nation, but we cannot accept PDPA as a political side and cannot include them in the process of our future political destiny, even if the war continues," he added.

National Assembly Seeks Help To End War

LD1302100690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 12, BAKHTAR—The joint session of the administrative board of the House of Representatives and Senate of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) presided over by Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the House of Representatives was held here today in connection with the independent defence of the territorial integrity, national sovereignty, as will as independence of the RA in the past year.

The session assessed military situation of the country, gains of the national reconciliation policy as well as approach of the state of the RA toward the comprehensive settlement of the issues inside and around Afghanistan.

The session communicated seperate messages to the USSR Supreme Soviet, the U.S.-Congress, the parliaments of China, India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and the

European parliament, the National Assembly of France and the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The messages demand from the said parliaments and social circles of the mentioned countries to help the people of Afghanistan in cessation of war and fratricide and ensurance of peace and security in the RA.

The messages express confidence that the parliaments of the other countries and commonsense can play a vital role in peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue by adopting humanitarian and constructive initatives and putting pressures on the responsible circles of their countries.

'Painful Punishment' Due for Kabul Regime

PM1302151790 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 9 Feb 90 pp 38, 40

[Unattributed interview with Abdul Rasul Sayaf, "Afghan mujahidin prime minister," in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: What is the mujahidin's position in Afghanistan? The international media carry conflicting reports about you. What is the truth?

Sayaf: The jihad is in a good position. The international media do not reflect the true picture of the jihad. The jihad is approaching the stages of the ultimate victory, God willing. The Afghan jihad's fruits have started to emerge in countries which are far away from us. I can clearly see that the oppressed peoples in East Europe have launched a sweeping uprising against the ugly communist control. What has happened there is a translation in practice of the effects of the jihad's liberation role. The Afghan jihad has played, and continues to play, its role in destroying the false communist entity in the world. The jihad is going well and success is imminent, God willing.

AL-HAWADITH: Why you still have not captured Kabul and the major cities in Afghanistan?

Sayaf: It is God who bestows victory. God ordered us to embark on the jihad, so we responded with the jihad, prayers, and thanks. We drew up three major stages of jihad. The first, thank God, was crowned with success—the expulsion of the Russians. [passage omitted]

We have started the second stage of the jihad, the objective being to topple the agent Kabul government planted by the Red March, which is now suffering a major setback. The mujahidin will, God willing, enter Kabul and breach all defensive fortifications. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Some propose the idea of forming a broadly based government and including some secular elements in the mujahidin government. Do you support that?

Sayaf: We do not negotiate with the puppet Kabul regime and in no way will we accept the inclusion of secular elements. We are a mujahidin government representing the parties and organizations maintaining the jihad on the battlefield. As for the Najib government, it must declare its repentance and then surrender to the mujahidin before God enables them to command it, thus averting a bloody battle that could occur during the storming of Kabul; otherwise the regime will receive a painful punishment.

AL-HAWADITH: Why has Jalalabad still not been captured, and why do the media exaggerate the battle around it?

Sayaf: War requires capabilities, resources, sacrifice, experience, good timing, and initiative. The Western media did us more harm than good when they made an issue out of Jalalabad. Since we besieged the city we have not retreated one single inch. Our siege of the city has been maintained at a distance of 90 m, but today we are only 3-7 km away. We are in full control of the areas around the city. We are still tightening the grip around it and we shall enter it when we decide the timing according to the general strategic position. We should not forget that the city contains over 150,000 [as published] Muslims, and if careful calculations are not made, the Russian agents will expose these peaceful people to the fire of the fighting. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Are still there disagreements among the seven parties? And when will foreign minister Hekmatyar return to the interim government?

Sayaf: The disagreements are marginal, not radical. For example, there are no disagreements over the holy jihad and the recovery of our territory from the communist regime. There is no disagreement over the need to form a shura council comprising influential people to make the decisions concerning Afghanistan's future and draw up rebuilding and developments plans. There is no disagreement among us over these basic orientations and principles. What you term disagreement has actually started to decline. As for brother Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the dialogue with him is still continuing, and he will join us in the near future, God willing. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What has been achieved with the Iran-based parties?

Sayaf: We are maintaining a dialogue with them, and we hope that they will join the government and work within its framework.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been reported that you are suffering a major shortage of weapons, equipment, and ammunition. Is that true? And, if so, why?

Sayaf: Compared with our enemy we are suffering a major shortage of weapons, equipment, and ammunition. But that shortage does not dampen our resolution or our efforts. We are now trying to redress the reasons. We are asking for aid and support from Almighty God and then from our brothers in the Islamic countries. [passage omitted]

India

Spokesman Defends Action of Security Forces

BK1302161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] India has defended the action of its security forces to prevent the Pakistani crowds from crossing the line of actual control in the Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday [11 February]. It has further cautioned that more incidents like this might take place if people in Pakistan are further incited to cross the border. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that troops were left with no other option but to fire when large crowds tried to enter the border at a check-point in the Uri sector. India's point of view was conveyed to the Pakistani foreign secretary, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, yesterday when he had a talk with the foreign secretary, Mr. S.K. Singh, on the hotline.

In another development, Pakistan's chief of army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said that the way the people of his country were crossing the cease-fire line was not fair and correct. Agencies quote the general as saying in Islamabad that when people cross the line of control, the Indian army obviously would fire. He urged politicians to restrain people instead of exciting them.

Demonstrations Held at Pakistani High Commission

BK1402115290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Janata Dal workers today held separate protest demonstrations at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi against Islamabad's interference in the internal affairs of the country.

The BJP demonstration, organized by the minority cell of the Delhi unit, was led by the party vice president, Mr. Sikander Bukht. The demonstrators included a large number of Muslims. The demonstrators presented a memorandum addressed to the Pakistan prime minister saying that Kashmir is an integral part of India and Muslims in the country will not tolerate any interference in our internal affairs.

The Janata Dal city unit demonstrators also presented a memorandum to the High Commission.

Political Parties Rally in Punjab Against Pakistan

BK1402085290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, major political parties held a demonstration against Pakistan's intervention in the internal affairs of the country in Jalianwala Bagh in Amritsar today. The parties which participated were the CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the Janata Dal, and the Congress-I. A large number of industrial workers, employees, and other citizens also took part in it.

Our Amritsar correspondent, Daljit Singh Sandhu, reports this was the biggest rally held recently in the border district of Punjab against Pakistan. The political parties stressed the need for unity and integrity of the country at this hour.

Kashmir Television Station Director Shot Dead

BK1302162090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The director of Srinagar Doordarshan Kendra [television station], Mr. Lassa Koul, was shot dead by unidentified militants in Srinagar this evening. The incident took place at about 1900 this evening while Mr. Koul was on his way home.

This was Mr. Koul's first posting in Doordarshan. Earlier, he had a distinguished career in All India Radio [AIR], where he served as station director at a number of difficult stations like Leh, Jammu, and Jullundur. He was also the station director of AIR, Srinagar, for a number of years.

AIR special correspondent points out that AIR and Doordarshan functionaries have been receiving repeated threats by the subversives in the Kashmir Valley. They have been carrying [out] their duties undaunted by such threats and with utmost devotion to their duties.

According to an official spokesman, raids were conducted at about 20 suspected hideouts of the subversives. Follow-up action is in progress.

Meanwhile, the governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has instituted the governor's welfare fund to help those who have in one way or the other suffered in terrorist activities. He has appealed to the people and all organizations and associations to donate to the governor's fund.

21 Die in Punjab Violence; Rail Track Blown Up

BK1302021490 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, 21 people, including two terrorists, have been killed in violence. Militants also blew up a stretch of the rail track near Patiala.

In a gruesome killing, terrorists dragged six people out of their home in Karmuwal village in Tarn Taran District and shot them dead. Terrorists also shot dead three people in Amritsar District.

Two persons were killed and 15 injured in a powerful bomb blast in Batala town, and police are investigating last night's blast inside the house security police training center at Kilor. Barracks in the center, where the blast took place, caught fire and collapsed.

In other incidents today, a granthi [Sikh scholar] was also killed in Patiala District. The district Congress-I leader, shot in Jullundur last night, died in hospital today.

3 Border Security Officers Killed in Punjab

BK1402054990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, three persons of the BSF [Border Security Force], including two assistant commandants, were killed and four seriously injured in a powerful landmine blast in Gurdaspur District late last night.

According to an official spokesman, the victims were on patrolling duty on the Batala-Kaibia Road when a blast took place on the road near village Todarmal immediately after the jeep passed that place without causing any damage. The spokesman said another blast took place near village Khair, totally damaging the jeep and causing the casualties. The four injured persons have been admitted to hospital in Amritsar.

Iran

TEHRAN TIMES Cautions Soviets on Tajikistan

NC1402113590 Paris AFP in English 0946 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb 14 (AFP)—A leading Iranian newspaper Wednesday urged Moscow to avoid the use of force in the Soviet republic of Tajikistan, where dozens of people have been killed in rioting.

The unrest in the central Asian republic could influence neighbouring Afghanistan, where the Soviet-backed government faces Moslem rebels, the TEHRAN TIMES warned.

"What suits best the interest of the (Soviet) Union as well as that of the republics in the USSR under the present circumstances of rapid change will be efforts to avoid violence," the English-language daily commented.

The paper, which is close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, called instead on the Soviet Union to "create the political climate apt for a peaceful handling of the related issues."

The recent unrest in Tajikistan was the natural outcome of years of suppression by former Soviet governments, it said.

"Under force, nationalist aspirations were not ostentatious but they submerged only to surface again more powerfully upon the first opportunity they got," the TEHRAN TIMES added.

Soviet television said earlier Wednesday that 37 people were killed and 80 injured since Monday during rioting in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe, where the authorities have declared a state of emergency and sent in tanks.

The violence has involved ethnic Moslem Tajiks, who speak an Iranian dialect, on the one hand and Russians and Armenians on the other.

Strife reportedly broke out in the Tajik capital in reaction to rumours that 5,000 Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan were to be resettled in new housing in Dushanbe.

"Demonstrators, mainly young people, have set many shops on fire in the center of town and are grabbing people in the street, mainly Russians, and beating them," said the wife of a Soviet television correspondent working in Dushanbe.

Talks Held With USSR on Cross-Border Traffic

LD1302122990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Following a consular memorandum of understanding signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR in Moscow last Khordad (21 May-21 June 1990), two further rounds of talks on consular issues between the two countries were held yesterday and today between a Soviet consular delegation led by Boris Chaplin, USSR deputy foreign minister for consular affairs, and Mr Mir-Mahdi, the legal and consular deputy of our country's Foreign Ministry.

The two sides held discussions and exchanged views on compiling and signing a memorandum of understanding in connection with easing travel for inhabitants of the border areas and conditions for visiting relatives.

Karrubi: Rushdie Death Edict To Be Carried Out

LD1402114690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Unidentified correspondent's report on address by Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi at 14 February Majles session—live or recorded]

[Text] In this morning's open session of the Majles which was chaired by Mr Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles, in the course of remarks referred to the death sentence edict issued against Salman Rushdie, the apostate writer of the insulting book "Satanic Verses", by his holiness the imam—may his soul be sanctified—and said: The issuance of this edict gave rise to a wave of pride and joy among the world's Muslims, and during the length of the year the protests and reactions of the Muslims continued in such a way that in Britain, which was the source of this insult, there have been numerous marches and demonstrations; and, unfortunately, the British Government and the Western world, by supporting this apostate, have hurt the feelings of more than one billion Muslims.

The speaker of the Majles, underlining the point that the edict of his highness the imam—may his dust be sanctified—continued to remain in force, reproached the British Government and Western countries that defend the writer of the "Satanic Verses" and said: Britain and

other defenders of Salman Rushdie should know that their tricks and deceit will have no effect and that even though Salman Rushdie is being protected eventually a Muslim will carry out this edict.

Mr Karrubi praised the latest movement of the Muslims in Japan protesting against the publishing of the "Satanic Verses" in Japanese and noted that Muslims are awake and alert all over the world and are defending their honor. The speaker of the Majles, in conclusion, called on people to participate in the ceremony which will be staged this afternoon in Tehran by the Islamic Revolution Foundation of Martyrs, to pay tribute to the memory of those persons who were martyred last year in India and Pakistan while protesting against the publication of the "Satanic Verses."

Lebanese Ulema Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1302122790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Allamah Saiyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of the Lebanon's prominent ulema, met President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. During the meeting, according to the central news unit, Allamah Saiyad Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah informed the president about important current issues regarding Lebanon and the region, and especially those pertaining to the Arab world. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then emphasized the forging of greater understanding between Lebanon's Islamic groups, referred to the efforts made by the Islamic Republic of Iran in this respect, and expressed the hope that the Islamic and resistance Lebanese forces will strengthen their ranks all the more in order to confront the common Zionist and Maronite politics enemy.

Confers With Velayati

LD1302114290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Allameh Sayyed Muhammed Husayn Fadlallah met and conferred with Foreign Minister Mr Velayati this morning. During the meeting, Allahmeh Fadlallah delivered a report about the latest developments in the Lebanese politico-military scene and the existing regional equations, and expressed gratitude for the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the establishment of an atmosphere of understanding, unity, and fraternity among world Muslims, especially Lebanese Muslims. He asked that such efforts continue and increase.

Mr Velayati then referred to the current political situation in the region, expressed a wish for the greatest possible unity between all of Lebanon's Islamic and nationalist forces, and asked that they set aside their minor differences for the sake of confronting political Maronism and the Zionist enemy, the real agents of dissension in the region, and that they should strive for the establishment of an atmosphere of understanding, fraternity, and solidarity.

Our country's foreign minister also asked the community of Lebanese Muslim ulema to use all the forces and resources available in the region for creating unity, and to mobilize them for the sake of that important task.

A delegation of Lebanese Druze ulema, headed by Shaykh (Mors al-Nasr) also met Mr Velayati today. At the meeting, Shaykh (Mors al-Nasr) submitted a message from Mr Walid Junblatt, the head of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party, delivered a report about the current situation in Lebanon, and stressed the greatest possible cultural and political cooperation between the Druze and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Velayati, for his part, stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for Lebanon's Islamic and nationalist forces and conveyed our country's preparedness for the greatest possible strengthening of ties with the Druze and the Progressive Socialist Party.

Karrubi 12 Feb Speech on Islamic Awareness

LD1202120490

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0933 GMT on 12 February broadcasts a 42-minute recording of a speech by Majles Speaker Karrubi given at Tehran's Laleh Hotel during the opening ceremony of the 10 Days of Dawn celebrations. The first 39 minutes of the speech are devoted to a review of the situation in Iran before the revolution, going back to 1963, and recalling Khomeyni's political activities inside Iran and during his exile.

Discussing Khomeyni's method of dealing with post-revolution issues, Karrubi recalls the Salman Rushdie incident. "The islamic uprising, the worldwide growth of Islam and the Islamic movements, clearly showed that the publication of that book ["The Satanic Verses"] was a conspiracy. And it will continue. It is a cultural movement against Islam, which will probably be followed by movies and shows, for example, the programs they made.

"The imam was instantly alert to the ploy and dealt with it," Karrubi continues. "As we saw, he rallied the Muslims together and issued the death sentence on the mercenary Salman Rushdie. Then we were confronted with further conspiracies—as they were exposed—the EEC and the rest of them rallied together. This revealed a conspiracy, not an ordinary incident or an ordinary book. The imam foiled the plot, stood up to it, and resisted it."

Karrubi goes to note that that incident has a great impact on the world of Islam and recalls the deaths in Kashmir and Pakistan and the marches and demonstrations by Muslims in Britain and elsewhere. These actions, he

says, testify to the alertness, growth, and greatness of Muslims and their awareness of the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam.

Khomeyni Speaks at IRC Anniversary Ceremony

LD1202184390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Report on the 12 February ceremonies held at the burial site of Ayatollah Khomeyni to mark the 11th anniversary of the formation of Islamic Revolution Committees]

[Text] On the 11th anniversary of the formation of Islamic Revolution Committees [IRC] the order of Imam Khomeyni in 1357 [1979], this morning a large number of the IRC forces staged a splendid mechanized parade moving toward the location of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni's shrine. While attending the blessed tombside of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and placing wreaths on the tomb of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, they once again renewed their pledge with the sacred path and objectives of our lost imam, while renewing their allegiance with the esteemed position of leadership, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—the vali-e amr of Muslims. They further commemorated the magnificent memory of the formation of the IRC by the order of Imam Khomeyni, peace and salutations be upon him, on 23 Bahman 1357 [12 February 1979]. Those splendid ceremonies were attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni—the dear son of the great founder of the Islamic republic—and brother Mirlohi—acting general commander of the IRC—and a number of deputies from the IRC. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni spoke in detail by pointing to the active and effective presence of IRC forces in 11 years of sacred defense. He said that no one can forget the services of you dear ones during the most tense period of the revolution. When the liberals sought to divert the revolution from its main path, you sacrificed your lives, and through the guidelines of His Holiness the Imam you moved alongside the people. Until this moment, standing next to the blessed shrine of His Holiness the Imam, you have defended the honor and objectives of the Islamic revolution. May God reward you.

Expelled Iranians Interviewed on Return From UK

LD1102180490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Interviewed by our reporter, Rahimi, a student expelled from Britain who was in the process of working for his doctorate in mechanical engineering and expecting to submit his dissertation, after returning to the homeland, said: The British Government expelled us on the pretext of having links with students, organizations and individuals sympathetic to the Islamic Revolution. Continuing this interview, Rahimi also added:

[Begin Rahimi recording] The British Government considers that siding with the Iranian regime is an offense leading to expulsion of a student from Britain. Under current circumstances, Muslim Iranian students have been largely deprived of the security in thought and education, especially those students who are living in Manchester. [end recording]

[Announcer] In an interview with our reporter, Keyvanara, manager of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran office in London, who is among those recently expelled from Britain, referring to the freedom of speech and expression in the British Constitution which, the British Government in power quotes as the reason why it has to allow the publication of the book "Satanic Verses", by Salman Rushdie, said: The British Government, after the imam's—may his dust be sanctified—historic fatwa, in view of the unity and solidarity among Muslims and the activities of the mass media including the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, and the humiliation which the British Government is suffering in this event, has proceeded to expel the students. And, contrary to British laws concerning freedom of speech and expression, the British Government has decided to expel a journalist whose responsibility was to report the relevant news. The manager of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran office in London also said:

[Begin Keyvanara recording] Just on the night before we were due to leave Britain, two British reporters were being expelled from South Africa—though from the point of view of their natures, Britain and the regime of South Africa are both the same, they are both racist, yet Mrs Thatcher, as the first person, so-called, of the British Government, appeared on television and termed this move on the part of the South African Government as an ugly, uncultured and uncivilized move. I really don't know now—the expulsion of an Iranian reporter who was clearly engaged in the work of reporting and managing the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran office—I don't know to what law, what logic and what civilized behavior of the British Government this move corresponded to. [end recording]

Larijani Sees Good Relations With Europe, Not UK

LD0802234290 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Now Shahr, Mazandaran Prov., Feb. 8, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran will not spare any efforts to defend the rights of its citizens according to international norms, an advisor to the foreign minister said here today.

Mohammad Javad Larijani referring to the British attitude towards Iranian nationals said London's violation of internationally-recognized laws has triggered hatred of the international community.

Britain has told nine more Iranians to leave that country by Feb. 9 on baseless charges.

On Iran's relations with European countries Larijani who was speaking to IRNA, said since the victory of the Islamic revolution Iran has considered relations with "Europe minus the U.S.", 'but the U.S. has always been concerned and therefore disrupted Iran's relations with a Europe without the U.S.'

In the wake of the recent developments in Europe Larijani predicted that the Islamic Republic would have better relations with the European countries.

However he emphasized that there is some exceptions in this respect such as Britain. It seems that Britain would have more coordination with the U.S. policies in the next decade, as impediments created by this regime in the way of establishment of an independent Europe has practically put Britain in isolation, Larijani said.

'We will have better relations with an independent Europe which also includes the Eastern Europe,' he stressed.

On the effect of the Islamic revolution in the contemporary world Larijani said the current situation of the world confirms this theory that ground has been prepared for the acceptance of the Islamic thought.

Terming the downfall of the Marxist school as 'the collapse of the big empire of the most powerful enemies of the divine thought' Larajani said the rest of the enemies should feel the same danger, and therefore accept the divine thought.

Envoy to France Condemns Terrorism

LD1002132190 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Paris, Feb. 10, IRNA—The Iranian Ambassador in Paris Ali Ahani, in an interview broadcast on Monte Carlo Radio Friday strongly condemned "terrorism," and reiterated Islam's opposition to any sort of harmful acts against the life of innocent people.

Ahani categorically denied the Islamic Republic's involvement in terrorist acts in Paris and noted that Iran and France enjoy "friendly relations."

Tunisian citizen Fuad Ali Saleh is currently on trial on alleged bombing attacks in Paris in 1986, and certain segments of the French mass media have tried to accuse Iran of involvement in the attacks.

Ahani criticized the Paris government for failing to honour the pledge undertaken by the then French Premier Jacques Chirac two years ago to release Lebanese Muslim Annis Naccache who is serving a life sentence on charges of an abortive attempt against the life of the deposed Shah's last premier Shahpour Bakhtiar in 1980.

In protest against Paris' breaking of word, Naccache was on a hunger strike since last September and after much persuasion ended his hunger strike on 26 January.

Ahani said that Iran had convinced Naccache through his mother to end his strike.

Questioned on the "The Satanic Verses" affair, the Iranian envoy explained that the late Imam Khomeinyi's fatwa for the execution of the apostate author Salman Rushdie, is "irrevocable because it is based on Islam and the holy Quran."

In Islam, all schools of jusrisprudence are unanimous on death penalty for apostacy, and Rushdie has been trying to dodge justice since the sentence was pronounced against him last February.

Karrubi, Lebanese Tawhid Leader View Muslim Unity

LD1302185190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tahid Movement, in his meeting this morning with Majles Speaker Mr Karrubi, expressed his congratulations for the anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution. He also expressed the hope that the Islamic revolution will lead to an opening up of a new trend in the Islamic world, and to the resurgence of Muslim honors.

While presenting a report to the Majles speaker, he pointed to internal clashes in Lebanon, and said: There is a great ongoing conspiracy against Muslims in Lebanon, and colonialism is trying to crush the Islamic forces in that country. He added: The international agreement is that Lebanese issues should come to a tragic conclusion, and that the Palestinian issue should come to the same conclusion. At the end of his remarks, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban stressed the need for greater unity among Muslims.

In this meeting, Mr Karrubi referred to Lebanese issues saying: The truth is that there is a battle raging between Islam and blasphemy. On one side, activities are reaching a climax in Islamic societies, even in countries where marxism has been active for years. On the other side, on the opposite pole, global blasphemy is seeking to strangle all movements. Mr Karrubi added: As you can see, they [global blasphemy] have devised dangerous plans for Lebanon and Palestine. His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may he be accepted in God's paradise—always graciously said that one must not fear enemy conspiracies because they cannot destroy Islam and the revolution. One should instead fear internal disputes, which at present besiege Lebanon. The Majles speaker also said: At present Israel, which is armed to the teeth, and the United States are intent on crushing Muslims in Lebanon. However, what causes concern is internal clashes among Muslims.

The Majles speaker expressed the hope that conspiracy against Islamic forces in Lebanon may come to an end through the vigilance of revolutionary and faithful forces. He then stressed the need to create unity among the ranks of Muslims in the world, saying: The policy of

his Holiness Imam Khomeyni from the outset of struggles was a serious endeavor aimed at creating unity among the ranks of Muslims in the world, saying: The policy of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni from the outset of struggles was a serious endeavor aimed at creating unity among Muslism throughout the world. However, unfortunately books and writings which aim at sowing the seeds of discord, published by people such as the rulers of Arabistan [Saudi Arabia]—who consider themselves to be leaders of Muslims—are on the increase. We hope that such conspiracies may be nullified by the greater vigilance of Muslims, so that the unity of Muslims may be attained.

Envoy Meets With Afghan Mujahidin Leaders

LD1002235990 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Peshawar, Feb. 10, IRNA—Iran's ambassador in Islamabad Javad Mansuri Friday conferred with Afghan Mujahideen leaders Burhanuddin Rabbani and Qazi Amin Vaqqad.

Mansuri exchanged views on the recent developments in the Islamic world especially the jihad in Afghanistan against the Marxist regime.

Khamene'i Agrees to Partial Amnesty

LD1102204690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] The leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, on the anniversary of the glorious victory of the Islamic revolution today, graciously agreed with a request of Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judicial power, to mitigate or pardon the sentences of all those convicted in the civil and military tribunals and the Islamic Revolution Courts, whose sentences were finalized by 22 Bahman 1368 [11 February 1990].

The text of the letter sent by the head of the judicial power to the Vali-ye Amr of the Muslims [guardian of the cause, Khamene'i] is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. To the lofty presence of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may your shadow remain over the heads of Muslims. While offering my greetings and congratulations on the occasion of 22 Bahman, the start of the 12th year of the glorious Islamic revolution, which was led by the illustrious imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds, I ask Your Eminence, the Vali-ye Amr of the Muslims, to grant mercy and Islamic pardon upon those convicted by the civil and military tribunals and the Islamic Revolution Courts, whose sentences have been finalized by 22 Bahman 1368, in the following category:

1. Those sentenced to prison terms of up to three months are fully pardoned, whether they have been arrested or tried in absentia.
2. Two thirds of the sentence of those convicted to prison terms of up to five years is pardoned.
3. Three quarters of the sentence of those convicted to prison terms of up to 20 years is pardoned.
4. The sentences of those convicted to prison terms of over 20 years and life imprisonment, are reduced to 15 years.
5. Two thirds of the sentence of those convicted to live at certain areas is remitted [those condemned to live and work in remote areas or labor camps].
6. Two thirds of the sentences of those who are imprisoned for failing to pay a fine due to poverty, is pardoned.

Note A. Except for the fines which were fixed as a result of the complaints filed by the Customs Office and the Tobacco Company, when it is necessary to obtain their agreement, in other cases when private complainant is involved, it is necessary to obtain the agreement.
Note B. This order can be implemented when the convict has served part of his sentence.
Note C. If a person is imprisoned for failing to pay a fine, he can be granted a pardon for the prison term, or for the repayment of the fine as well.
Note D. Those who have taken advantage of the general amnesty once before are also covered by this decree. The rest of their sentence, after the previous amnesty, is remitted within the limits mentioned above.

The following instances are not covered by this decree:

1. Hoarding.
2. Embezzlement of over 500,000 rials and taking bribes of more than 50,000 rials. Illegal confiscation of public assets and plundering of the nation's wealth.
3. Armed robbery and highway robbery.
4. Conmen and thieves, who have been condemned more than twice before at a court.
5. Rape.
6. All the individuals who have been condemned for being indentified as those who wage war against God, followers of deviant sects [baha'is] and spies.
7. Smugglers, producers, traffickers, pedlars and buyers of narcotics of over five grammes and opium of over 50 grammes.
8. Those convicted on the basis of the Anti-naroctics Law passed by the Council for Discerning the Expediency of the Islamic System since the first of Bahman 1367 [21 January 1989].

May God's peace and benedictions be upon you.

[Signed and dated] Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judicial power, 22/11/68 [11 February 1990]

The text of the reply sent by the leader of the Islamic revolution and Vali-ye Amr of the Muslims to the head of the judicial power's letter is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. I agree with the proposal of pardoning or reducing the sentences. I beseech Almighty God to grant success to you and all those who are serving Islam and the Muslims.

[Signed and dated] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 22/11/68 [11 February 1990]

Tehran Cites Report on Executions in Iraq

NC1202091190 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] About 4,600 people of the Turkic minority in Iraq have been sent to prison for failing to join the Ba'ath Party in Baghdad. According to an IRNA report from Ankara, the newspaper BUGUN, published a report under the headline "The Iraqi Turks Are Being Sent to the Gallows," saying: The Iraqi regime is sentencing a large part of the Turkic minority in the country to various prison terms for being unwilling to join the Ba'ath Party and for avoiding military service during the past 10 years.

Quoting immigrant Turkic refugees, BUGUN also claimed that about six Turkic Iraqi citizens have recently been executed for avoiding military service. The same report said that 35 people have been hanged during the past 30 days for opposing the Iraqi regime.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Mandela Release

LD1202211190 Tehran IRNA in English 2050 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—In an official communique Monday the Iranian Foreign Ministry expressed pleasure over Nelson Mandela's freedom from prison in South Africa, and renewed its support for the struggle of the South Africans against the apartheid regime in that country.

The ministry said the people and government of Iran share the happy feelings of the South Africans for the release from prison of their fellow-struggler. It said to Iran's Muslim people the fact of Mandela's release from custody on the eleventh anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic Revolution is a token of good omen.

The Foreign Ministry's communique, however, called on the South Africans to continue with their struggle against every aspect of racism and for entitling all South African subjects to one vote.

It also warned the South Africans to maintain their total vigilance for coping with 'the tricks of racist agents and weathered supporters of the world arrogance.'

Damaged Destroyer Relaunched in Bandar 'Abbas

LD1002222990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The destroyer Sabalan, which lost nearly all its maneuverability and operational capabilities in an unequal confrontation with U.S. aggressors on 18 April 1989, was relaunched in the Bandar 'Abbas first naval region today after being repaired and restored. Our correspondent reports:

With the completion of repair work, the destroyer Sabalan was relaunched this afternoon in the presence of the Navy commander and the honorable families of those martyred on the warship Nahand and the destroyer Sabalan. [passage omitted]

Aqazadeh Comments on Refinery's Importance

LD1002093290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Interview with Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] The first section of the extensive Nar and Kangan gas refinery was officially commissioned in Bushehr in order to use the vast gas resources in the Nar and Kangan region in southern Iran. I ask Mr Aqazadeh, the oil minister, to explain:

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Today in fact is a blessed day for me on which the extensive Kangan refinery has reached the operational stage after years of effort and endeavor. This refinery is unique in the world. It can refine 80 million cubic meters of gas per day, which is the capacity of both phases of the refinery. We have witnessed the commissioning of its first unit and we are hopeful that the output of the first phase of the refinery will reach 35 million cubic meters per day within a month or two.

With regard to the arrangements made in the meeting of the economic council, we hope to enable the refinery to reach maximum capacity by the end of the year 70 [the year ending 20 March 1992]; that is, to reach 80 million cubic meters. This is one of the country's most important projects and fortunately, its operation begins at a time when we are on the verge of exporting gas to the Soviet Union. With regard to the country's internal needs and the issues of exports and currency income, the timing of the project is at a very sensitive juncture as we are on the threshold of implementing the Five-Year Plan, and through the operation of this refinery, we will completely secure the energy needs of the country. We declare that the country will have no difficulty in the provision of its energy requirements, and we will provide the gas needed for any number of power stations or industrial projects that are dependent on gas, according to the Five-Year Plan.

The first phase of the project was installed by South Korea. The second phase was totally designed by Iranians. Through the experience gained at this massive complex, we are scientifically in control of the performance of a large complex. This is an extraordinary step in this program.

Nepal

Government Takes Measures Against Planned Rally

Home Minister Warns 'Activists'

BK0902080890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 9 (AFP)—Minister of State for Home Affairs Niranjan Thapa on Friday [9 February] warned that the government would take stern measures against activists for a return of multi-party politics to Nepal.

Mr. Thapa told members of the Nepal Youth Organisation at its central office here that the government would not stand idly by if pro-multi-party elements engaged in disruptive acts instead of using democratic processes available under Nepal's partyless panchayat system.

The home minister said that the government could assure citizens' security and would take stern measures against those who tried to disrupt normal life.

Recalling that the panchayat system was endorsed by a national referendum in 1980, Mr. Thapa said it was democratic and responded to people's wishes.

Nepal, the world's only Hindu kingdom, is governed through a system of directly elected local and national councils while King Birendra wields significant political and executive power.

Seeking an alternative to this system is tantamount to going against the directive of the people, Mr. Thapa added.

The banned Nepali congress, which advocates a constitutional monarchy, announced on February 2 that it would stage a rally on February 18 to demand reestablishment of multi-party politics in Nepal, absent for the past 30 years.

Mr. Thapa criticised activists for encouraging communalism, disturbing the educational atmosphere and fomenting trouble in the industrial sector.

He noted that the government had arrested some people suspected of participating in disruptive activities and warned that it would not hesitate to make more arrests.

Opposition sources have reported several hundred arrests since the February 2 announcement, including those of high-ranking members of the Nepali congress and members of leftist youth and student groups involved in planning the rally.

The government has also banned or seized editions of several weekly publications because of their support for banned political parties, according to sources close to the weeklies.

Mr. Thapa appealed for cooperation from all sections of the people against any activities harmful to the nation, the crown and the political system.

350 Multiparty Campaigners Held

BK0902093590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] In Nepal, more arrests have been made in connection with the movement of the banned Nepali Congress in favor of multiparty system from the 18th of this month. So far, over 350 persons have been detained. ALL INDIA RADIO Kathmandu correspondent Harish Segon reports that while the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front have announced their joint action plan for the movement, the Nepal Government has declared that it will deal sternly with the situation.

Police at Nepali Congress Office

BK1002102890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 10 (AFP)—Three more top activists of the outlawed Nepali Congress have been arrested, a source close to the Home Ministry said here Saturday [10 February].

The administration has put curbs on the party by posting police guards outside its office in Kathmandu township's Jamal locality to arrest anyone attempting to enter or leave the premises, the official source said.

Party sources said that three activists advocating a return of multi-party politics to Nepal had been arrested since late Friday afternoon.

Supreme Court advocate and Nepali Congress spokesman Daman Dhungana, Hom Nath Dahal, editor of a vernacular weekly THE RASTRAPUKAR (nation's call), and a youth activist whose name was not immediately known were arrested as they emerged from the office and began holding a press conference, the source said.

Both Mr. Dhungana and Mr. Dahal were shifted to the central jail Saturday, the source said.

The banned Nepali Congress, which advocates a constitutional monarchy, announced on February 2 that it would stage a rally on February 18 to demand dissolution of Nepal's 30-year-old partyless polity, known as the panchayat system, and revival of multi-party politics.

A wave of arrests of pro-multi-party activists has followed the February 2 announcement within and outside Kathmandu District in an apparent attempt by authorities to foil the February 18 rally.

Authorities have reported 275 arrests of both Nepali Congress representatives and communist activists this week, while party sources have put the figure at 500.

Two major weeklies have been banned, the PUNARJAGARAN (re-awakening), a pro-Nepali Congress paper, and JANAJAGRITI (people's awareness), a leftist paper.

Authorities have also seized copies of six other weeklies during the week, a Nepali Congress source said.

Meanwhile, professional associations of medical doctors, university faculty, lawyers and labourers announced a joint decision to observe a general strike on February 19 in response to the call made by banned political parties.

The banned parties have planned to display their party flags in a massive demonstration in defiance of a prohibitory order, party sources said.

Shrestha Defends Panchayat System

BK1002162090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1603 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 10 (AFP)—Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha said Saturday [10 February] the Nepalese Government would not remain silent if people disturbed law and order or attempted to mislead Nepalese, a government official reported.

Mr. Shrestha said the panchayat system of non-party politics had generated "political consciousness, developed the country and mobilised thousands of youth workers in the country."

He said it was "improper to cast aspersions against the panchayat system by not being able to accept the democratic achievement being made by the panchayat system out of narrow political mindedness."

Mr. Shrestha said, "the panchayat system looks upon democracy not as a topic for gossip but as a campaign to help the Nepalese in their daily life."

"Those who in the name of democracy lead astrey the children of the poor, draw them away from their schoolwork and exploit them to gain power for themselves are engaged in something quite reprehensible, and unjust," he added.

"Such exploitation of the youth could not be tolerated," he added.

Describing the youths and students as the pillars of the nations, he called on them not to miss the opportunity to educate themselves and to enable themselves to take an active part in the government by developing their personalities.

Nepali Congress Says 600 Held

BK1202065290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Reports of more arrests have come in from various parts of Nepal in connection with the proposed movement by the Nepali Congress in favor of the multiparty system which is to begin from the 18th of this month. Our Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, says that while the Nepali Congress places the number of people arrested so far at 600, the government sources put the figure at around 430.

Communist Leaders Arrested

BK1302064590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0628 GMT 13 Feb 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 13 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government on Tuesday [13 February] arrested senior communist party leader Sahana Pradhan, chairperson of the outlawed Leftist United Front (ULF), sources said.

Mrs. Pradhan, 58, who has spearheaded the unification of opposition forces in Nepal to advocate a return of multi-party politics to Nepal, was arrested at her home early Tuesday, party sources said.

Pro-Soviet communist leaders Bishnu Bahadur Manandhar and Badri Khatiwada were arrested here late Monday, while Sitananda Raya and Madan Thapa were arrested in Janakpur, 190 kilometers (120 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, on Sunday, they said.

The Forum for Protection of Human Rights issued a statement Tuesday saying that 677 leftist and prodemocracy activists had been arrested in 33 districts in the past week.

A Home Ministry source confirmed 475 arrests of what he called pro-Marxist activists.

"The so-called planned movement of the outlawed parties is going to be the movement of the pro-Marxist group of communist parties and therefore the majority of the arrests were from the leftist camp," he said.

The figure does not include a fresh wave of arrests of student activists in Pokhara, 225 kms (140 miles) west of here, on Monday after authorities disrupted a meeting on the Prithivi Narayan campus.

The Home Ministry source said slightly more than 100 students had been arrested overall, while opposition sources said 300 students had been arrested in Pokhara alone, half of them women.

"Most of the arrested students at Pokhara have already been released except for a few pro-leftist groups," the Home Ministry source said.

The government of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha has taken drastic precautionary measures in a bid to prevent Sunday's planned rally, which is to launch a movement advocating a multi-party system after three decades of the partyless panchayat system.

Opposition sources said activists from outside Kathmandu had been prevented from entering the capital ahead of the rally.

The pro-democracy Nepali Congress, backed by the ULF, has planned to fly banned party flags and address a public meeting at the open-air theatre in central Kathmandu. Both actions are illegal.

On Monday they plan a general nationwide strike and action to jam public transport services.

In anticipation of hundreds of arrests on Sunday, the local administration has cleared food-grain storage sheds in Kathmandu's Thapathali area, opposition sources said.

Meanwhile, several pro-multi-party newspapers published from Kathmandu have voluntarily shut down in protest against the Shrestha government's decision to censor or seize their editions before their release to the public.

Govinda Biyogi, president of the pro-democracy Nepal Journalists Association, said that so far about 10 newspapers had closed voluntarily rather than surrender galley proofs to censors.

"Either the government should declare an emergency or allow them to publish private newspapers without being censored as per the rights guaranteed under the Nepalese Constitution," Mr. Biyogi added.

Shops Close in Protest

BK1402100290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0951 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 14 (AFP)—Shops in Nepal's picturesque Pokhara Valley closed their doors Wednesday to protest a police crackdown against students earlier in the week which left seven students seriously injured, an eyewitness said.

The strike was called to protest Monday's crackdown by staff-wielding police on students meeting at Tribhuvan University's Prithivi Narayan campus in clashes which left seven students seriously injured, the source said in a telephone interview from Pokhara, some 225 kilometers (140 miles) west of here.

Only a few shops opened for business Wednesday after a senior regional official personally intervened, the source said. Vehicular traffic was also considerably reduced.

Tribhuvan University has sacked a lecturer and two assistant lectures after they were alleged to have supported an opposition move to restore multi-party democracy in this landlocked kingdom wedged between China and India, an official university statement said Wednesday.

The source in the picturesque valley said the lecturer and two other alleged left-wing university teachers were arrested under the Public Security Act.

Meanwhile, a group of students supporting the ruling partlyless panchayat system attacked Tuesday a group of opposition students in Birgunj township, some 190 kilometers (120 miles) south of Kathmandu, an opposition source said.

At the same time, in Rajbiraj, 190 kilometers (118 miles) southeast of here, senior opposition leader Kuber Sharma and an attorney were arrested late Tuesday on charges of posting illegal anti-government slogans, opposition source said.

The moves came amid a general crackdown which a Home Ministry source confirmed Tuesday had led to the arrest of 475 opposition activists. Opposition sources put the figure at 677 activists in addition to several hundred students.

The police action come on the eve of a major demonstration planned here for Sunday which opposition leaders hope will attract up to 50,000 people.

Journalists To Halt Publications in Protest

BK1102155890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] In Nepal, the parallel Nepal Journalists Association has decided to stop publication of its dailies and periodicals from today. This is in protest against what it called illegal pre-censorship, seizure of copies, and arrest of journalists. The parallel Nepal Journalists Association, which claims a majority, broke away from the original body as it was aligned to the government and not serving the cause of journalists.

Pakistan

Views and Action on Kashmir Issue

Conference Adopts Resolutions

BK1202043090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The all-party national conference on Kashmir has ended in Rawalpindi after unanimously adopting a number of resolutions urging the government to raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations so as to bring about an early solution to the problem. The government has also been asked to intensify its diplomatic offensive to counter the baseless propaganda campaign launched by India on the Kashmir issue.

The resolutions stressed the need to include representatives of Jammu and Kashmir in any decision made on the solution of the Kashmir issue.

In one of the resolutions, the conference welcomed the convening of a parliament session and taking the national leaders into confidence on this vital issue. The participants asked the Government of Pakistan to include members of various political parties of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in the proposed combined national council to intensify efforts to solve the Kashmir issue.

Addressing the concluding session, the Punjab chief minister and president of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad; or Islamic Democratic Alliance], Mian Nawaz Sharif, called upon the federal government to take concrete steps toward projecting the Kashmir issue at international forums. He said that the entire nation has expressed wholehearted support by responding to the call on 5 February for complete solidarity with the Kashmiri brethren. Mian Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan is a peace-loving country and does not want any sort of conflict with anyone. He added, however, that this should not be taken as a weakness.

Senate Chairman Mr. Wasim Sajjad in his speech called for resolving the issue in accordance with the international commitment made by Pakistan and India. He said that the Pakistani nation has already expressed its complete support of resolving the Kashmir issue.

A message from Muhajir Qaumi Movement chief Altaf Hussain was read out at the conference. In his message, Altaf Hussain said that every Pakistani is fully behind the just struggle of the Kashmiri people.

Border Shooting Sparks Protests

BK1302150190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Protest rallies and demonstrations continue in the entire Azad Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the unprovoked firing by Indian troops at Chakkoti on 11 February, in which unarmed and innocent civilians were killed. At its emergency meeting in Muzaffarabad today, the Central Committee for the Propagation of the Teachings of Prophet Muhammad strongly condemned the shooting by Indian forces on unarmed Kashmiri youths. A large number of women organized a procession in Muzaffarabad and later held a rally. The students also organized a procession. There was a complete strike in Mirpur and protest processions were organized, which later took the form of a major rally. Protest demonstrations and rallies were also held in other cities and towns of the free area.

Bhutto Welcomes Mediation

BK1302120590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1148 GMT 13 Feb 90

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 13 (AFP)—Pakistan would welcome third country mediation in defusing border tensions with India over disputed Kashmir, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said here Tuesday [13 February].

"I think whoever wishes to work for peace should be welcomed," she said in an exclusive interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"If there are countries that are friendly and want to defuse the tension, there would be no hesitation on the part of Pakistan," Ms. Bhutto, 36, said in the first interview she has granted since giving birth January 25 to her second child.

Asked if Britain had shown interest in mediating the Kashmir dispute, which Sunday flared up into border skirmishing between the two traditional rivals who have fought two of their three wars over the divided region, she said, "I am not aware of the report."

"The Government of Pakistan's point of view is that this problem is one which is internationally recognized and will never be permanently resolved until a plebiscite is held under the United Nations auspices," she added.

"But we are ready for a dialogue with India, not only on our other disputes but also on Kashmir," she said.

"We could always sit down and talk to India" about the UN Resolution of January 5, 1949 calling for a plebiscite in Kashmir, she said. India has rejected a plebiscite, saying Kashmir freely acceded to India.

"I am afraid the Government of India believes that it can crush the movement," she said. "But worldwide trends have shown that when the people want their freedom it is very difficult to crush."

The separatist campaign recently launched in the Indian part of the Muslim-dominated territory, split between the two neighbours since the 1948 war, has left more than 100 people killed since the begining of the year.

People in Pakistan and on this side of the UN-monitored line of control separating the two portions of Kashmir have expressed complete solidarity with the Kashmiris' struggle for self-determination.

At least two attempts have been made by pro-secession demonstrators in the past 10 days to cross the border, prompting Indian forces to open fire, leaving at least 10 demonstrators dead.

India has accused Pakistan of extending support to the Muslim militants in Indian Kashmir, a charge which Ms. Bhutto strongly denies. "We are simply endorsing the UN resolution," she said.

However, she expressed surprise that violence "suddenly cropped up" in Karachi last week, leaving 70 people reportedly dead, when the nation was demonstrating unity on the Kashmir issue.

Ms. Bhutto remarked that part of the problem in Pakistan's ethnically troubled southern Sind Province stemmed from "external influences."

On the situation in Kashmir, she said, "It is not the first time that force has been used (by India) in Kashmir, but the will of the people of Kashmir has never been suppressed."

Ms. Bhutto said the "people of Kashmir are inspired today when the world itself is welcoming freedom across

the globe and are themselves demanding their fundamental rights recognized by the world."

She stressed that "Kashmir is an outstanding dispute.

She said she hoped the two neighbours could reach a peaceful settlement to the dispute and added, "Why should there be a war?"

"We don't want a war. We will take whatever steps we can do to avoid a conflict," Ms. Bhutto said.

She said Pakistan has "very clearly and categorically stated that war is not its objective."

"We do feel that there is historic responsibility both on the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan to work for the resolution of problems and disputes between them on the basis of equality and sovereignty," she said.

She added that the Kashmir dispute could "be solved through a peaceful settlement, in accordance with the United Nations resolution and in the spirit of the Simla Agreement" of 1972, which denounced the use of force to settle bilateral disputes.

Islamabad Radio Cites Interview

BK1402035290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said Pakistan's point of view on the Kashmir problem is internationally recognized according to which this issue will never be permanently resolved until a plebiscite is held under the auspices of the United Nations.

In an interview with the French news agency AFP, she said Pakistan is ready for a dialogue with India on Kashmir and other issues. Dialogue could be held on the UN Resolution of 1949 calling for a plebiscite in Kashmir. The prime minister said worldwide trend has shown that when the people want their freedom it is very difficult to crush them. The independence campaign launched in the Indian-held Kashmir has left more than 100 people dead since the beginning of the year. People in Pakistan and on this side of line of control in Kashmir have expressed complete solidarity with the Kashmiris struggling for self-determination.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said it is not the first time that force has been used by India in Kashmir, but the will of the people of Kashmir has never been suppressed. They are inspired today when the world itself is welcoming freedom across the globe and (?they are) demanding their fundamental rights recognized by the world.

The prime minister said Pakistan does not want war and will take a (?right) step it can to avoid a conflict. She stressed that Kashmir is an outstanding dispute and hoped the two neighbors could reach a peaceful settlement of the dispute. There is a historic responsibility both in Pakistan and India to work for the resolution of the problems and disputes between them on the basis of equality and sovereignty.

Replying to a question about Afghanistan, she said political changes in Europe and the superpowers rapprochement would not harm the Afghan cause and friends of mujahidin would remain loyal.

Opposition Urged Not To Observe 16 Feb Strike

BK1302160190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan has urged the leadership of the Combined Opposition Parties [COP] to withdraw their appeal for a strike on Friday [16 February], because it is unjustified. Addressing a news conference at the Parliament House, he said an atmosphere of national cohesion and unity has been created by the Kashmir issue and the observance of any further protest days will not only vitiate this atmosphere but also harm national interests. The need of the hour, he said, is peace and harmony, and hence the COP leaders should appeal to the citizens to maintain peace.

The interior minister emphatically stated that there was no justification for observing the protest day last Wednesday [7 February], because by observing a countrywide protest day on 5 February the nation had expressed its solidarity with the Kashmiri people. The consequences of the observance of an unnecessary protest day has already been witnessed by the entire nation.

Answering the allegations that the government itself had been behind the violent incidents, the interior minister said no government wants to see violence, because it is never in its interest.

Aitzaz Ahsan also emphatically denied the report that the government has anything to do with kidnapping or prisoner exchanges between two groups in Karachi.

Bhutto Warns Against 'Provocateurs' in Sind

BK1402062090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0531 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 14 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called on the opposition not to permit "agents provocateurs and saboteurs" to play with the destiny of the nation following violence in southern Sind Province.

She compared the situation in the province, where at least 70 people have died since last week, with Beirut where rival Christian groups have been fighting for control and Northern Ireland where the outlawed Irish Republican Army is leading a terrorist campaign for secession from Britain.

"I think part of the problem is really a growth of the long years of deprivation and part of it external influences,"

she said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Tuesday [13 February].

She said "consultations at different levels of government have been in progress" and different ways were being considered on how to resolve the problem which last week flared up into the worst violence in her 14-month rule.

The trouble was sparked during a strike called last week by the opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) representing Urdu-speaking people who migrated after the partition of the subcontinent into India and Pakistan in 1947.

Bloody clashes between protestors and the security forces in Karachi as well as indiscriminate shooting by unidentified gunmen during the one-day strike left 71 dead and over 200 wounded.

The strike came after the MQM and the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) traded charges that the other side had kidnapped its party activists. At least five PPP abductees were burnt alive, party sources said.

Army authorities enforcing a curfew in two-thirds of the Sind Province port city of Karachi intervened Sunday to arrange the exchange of 18 PPP activists for nine MQM members after three days of intense negotiations. The freed workers from both sides showed signs of maltreatment, sources said.

The MQM has charged PPP activists, who are largely members of south Pakistan's native Sindi community, of kidnapping 137 of its workers while the PPP has charged that the MQM abducted 135 of its supporters.

"I would say the problem in Beirut is not an easy one, the problem in (Northern) Ireland is not easy one. Problems of this nature are never dealt through administrative decisions," Ms. Bhutto said.

Ms. Bhutto said the problem in Sind, home to several ethnic groups, was not just with the MQM as a political organisation, but included "a sort of insurgency."

"It is a deep malaise and it must be dealt with on different levels," she said, adding that if it was a question of a simple administrative answer, there would have been no massacre of 200 people in 1987 riots under the late General Mohammed Ziaul Haq "when one had the most repressive of administrations."

Such problems required a healing process, she said, adding "I believe the PPP government is in a position to build bridges," but this took time and patience.

Ms. Bhutto, who comes from Sind, reminded the opposition parties that they had a role to play for the nation.

She believed the February 7 strike was a deliberate move which took place two days after a nationwide strike in support of Moslems in the Indian state of Kashmir who are leading a militant campaign for secession from New Delhi.

India has accused Pakistan of supporting the campaign, a charge Islamabad, which controls the northern third of the state, has repeatedly denied.

Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars since partition in 1947 over the disputed state.

The attempts made to paralyse Karachi were aimed at the security of Pakistan, Ms. Bhutto said, adding "the government had taken strict notice of this and the civil administration in Sind has the full cooperation of the military."

She said law and order was the responsibility of the provincial government and the "Sind Government has assured us that it is going to try and build a political consensus."

Bhutto: Friends Will Not Betray Afghan Mujahidin

BK1302132290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 13 (AFP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Tuesday [13 February] said political changes in Europe and the superpower rapprochement will not harm the Afghan cause and friends of the mujahidin will remain loyal.

"Afghan mujahidin have fought very bravely and no one, none of their friends or supporters, is going to drop the support to them," she said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, her first with an international news agency after giving birth to her second child in late January.

Her statement came as the mujahidin, celebrating the first anniversary of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, flayed the Washington-Moscow understanding on the issue.

"I don't think that the United States is going to sacrifice the right of mujahidin," she said.

A communique released after the U.S.-Soviet ministerial talks in Moscow indicated Washington had agreed to retain President Najibullah for a transition period to allow resistance leaders to broaden the base of their one-year-old interim government.

The apparent shift in the earlier U.S. stand for an immediate departure of Mr. Najibullah from Afghanistan's political scene caused dismay among the Moslem resistance waging an 11-year war to replace his Soviet-backed regime.

Mujahidin leaders criticising the communique observed that the Afghan cause was being sacrificed at the altar of East-West reconciliation.

Ms. Bhutto said the "Pakistan Government firmly believes that Mr. Najibullah must go." She added that "the joint communique does not, in any way, take us away from the belief that in any settlement of the Afghan issue, Najibullah must go.

"Mujahidin have been fighting for freedom and we have also backed the Afghan Interim Government," like the United States, she said.

"Of course, the political climate has changed tremendously from a time when tension was at its peak between the two superpowers on the Soviet presence in Afghanistan," she said.

Events have changed quite a bit since the withdrawal of Soviet troops, she said, adding that "there has been a conciliation between the superpowers" amid the changes in the Soviet Union and Europe.

She said "It will be naive to accept that the United States would give up conciliation and encourage a man like (Mikhail) Gorbachev." [sentence as received]

But at the same time, she said "the Afghan mujahidin have fought very bravely and none of their friends or supporters is going to drop the support to them."

Kabul Allegations of Airspace Violations Rejected

BK1402081490 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 13—The Government of Pakistan has rejected the protest of Kabul regime, in which it was alleged that Pakistan aircraft and helicopters had violated the Afghan airspace.

The Afghan Charge d' Affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning, and was told that the Afghan allegations were investigated, and found baseless.

The Charge d' Affaires was also handed over a protest regarding violations of the Pakistani airspace by Afghan planes on Jan. 21 and 24 in North Waziristan Agency.

The Afghan Charge d' Affaires was asked to inform his Government to desist from making concocted allegations and avoid unprovoked violations of Pakistani airspace.—APP

Bhutto Addresses Senate, Urges Cooperation

BK1302164090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister has invited the provincial governments to cooperate and coordinate with the federal government in its endeavor to achieve national cohesion for the benefit of the people. Ms. Benazir Bhutto was making her first ever address to the Senate, which began its session in Islamabad today.

The prime minister said: From the floor of the Senate, which represents all four provinces, I invite you to work together to face the challenge of ensuring the restoration of parliamentary democracy, creating a consensus, and respecting different points of view, and at the same time operating through democratic principles alone.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the federal government (?makes) and applies policies for national development, keeping in view the welfare of the people within the available resources and economic realities. In this regard, she dispelled the impression that the federal government only sanctions and approves projects planned by the parliamentarians of the ruling party. She maintained that the government would welcome any good suggestion regarding any project from anybody, whether or not he or she belongs to the ruling party.

Referring to the role of the Senate in strengthening parliamentary democracy in the country, the prime minister thanked the upper house for extending cooperation to the government in transacting legislative business concerning national interests. [passage omitted]

Punjab Assembly Urges End to Confrontation

BK1302154190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The Punjab Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the federal government and the Punjab Province to end their confrontation in the best interest of the nation. The resolution was moved by Abdul Qadir Shahin of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP].

The house also adopted four more resolutions. In one of these resolutions, moved by the PPP's Wasi Zafar and Mian Mahmudur Rashid of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, the assembly unanimously condemned and expressed profound grief and sorrow over the recent violent and atrocious incidents in Karachi. The house called upon the Sind government to take into confidence all social, political, and other organizations and to restore peace and communal harmony in Karachi.

Sri Lanka

President Willing To Relax Emergency Regulations

BK1402101590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Colombo, Feb 14 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Wednesday [14 February] announced he was willing to relax emergency regulations as part of a package to end unrest in the island.

Mr. Premadasa said he had accepted a recommendation made by a commission on youth problems in the

republic to lift emergency laws which were introduced on June 20 last year after Sinhalese rebels stepped up attacks.

"As the security situation has now improved considerably, I will be taking action to revoke certain clauses in the emergency regulations," he said.

He did not say when the emergency would be relaxed.

He accepted proposals by the commission to appoint an independent committee to help those who had taken up weapons against the government to surrender and introduce administrative and political reforms giving more prominance to youth.

"We will not hesitate to restructure any organisation or institution however traditionally entrenched, if the need of our society require us to do so," the president said.

He called for the support of opposition political parties to "construct a fair and just society in which the youth of our country could take their rightful place."

"Only a few months ago, we faced a situation which threatened to destroy us. Democracy itself was under seige... Today we have averted that danger. But there can be no place for complacency," he said.

He was referring to the government's successful military drive against the Sinhalese People's Liberation Front (JVP) which threatened to overthrow the government.

"Suppressing the symptoms alone is not enough. We must identify the causes and work together to remove them," the president told delegates from 17 out of some 26 recognised political parties attending an All Party Conference (APC) which opened in September at the height of JVP violence. The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party boycotted the conference.

Mr. Premadasa said he was "actively considering" widening the ownership of state run radio and television stations and a newspaper publishing house in a bid to liberalize the media in Sri Lanka.

"I agree that an independent media is essential for the proper functioning of democracy," he added.

Wijeratne: India Trying To Destabilize Colombo

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[Text] Colombo, Feb 14 (AFP)—India's external intelligence agency was planning to destabilise Colombo, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said here wednesday after security forces seized up to 300 young men in overnight swoops.

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also junior defence minister, told a group of political parties that India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) was trying to create trouble and troops have been ordered to arrest anyone linked with the agency.

"RAW is trying to destabilise Colombo. We will not allow RAW to destabilise our country. Orders have gone out to arrest dicey persons.

"Anyone involved with RAW or connected with RAW will be arrested," Mr. Wijeratne said at the meeting chaired by President Ranasinghe Premadasa. The meeting was to discuss a report on youth unrest in the island republic.

A Tamil delegate at the All Party Conference said hundreds of young Tamils of the minority community had been taken away from inns, lodgings, bus stations, and temples here overnight and were being held in police stations.

Mr. Wijeratne did not say how many were in custody but said automatic assault rifles, pistols, ammunition and handgrenades had been found on them. He said the suspects included Sinhalese and Moslems.

"RAW is trying to destabilise our country. We will smash them out of sight," Mr. Wijeratne told reporters after the meeting.

Defence Secretary Sepala Attygalle said "200 to 300" men had been taken in and they were due to be released by Wednesday afternoon after questioning.

General Attygalle said they had intelligence reports that Tamil rebels may have brought weapons to Colombo from the island's north and east where Tamil militants had been active.

Security forces recently recovered a large haul of automatic weapons and ammunition hidden in a truck transporting wheat flour from the northeastern port of Trincomalee to the island's south.